

1

ПРОТИВО
СТОЯНИЯ

ПЕРТЕЙ unamnin

РУССКАЯ АМЕРИКА:
ОТКРЫТЬ И ПРОДАТЬ!



Abstract

[illegible]

Русские передвигались и кормились в худших условиях, чем в Европе и даже в России. Захватили, например, на Кавказе Варваров и как и там Талемай, сэрты, еркектеры, Велвояты, с сыновьями Первого, купцы Шедихов, Кусков и революционер Франсиско де Мирта, да, как и персидские Фановы, легендарный русский американец Трайвары Барановичи, а также бездельники, и, следовательно, вожжи жизни закончили.

America, Russia was increasingly losing its great Pacific prospects. The confrontation with Japan further undermined them ...

On the Far Eastern aspect of the problem, the author wrote another book - "Beyond the high bank of the Amur ...", which, he hopes, will be published in the near future. After all, the history of Russia in its relationship with the history of the peoples and states of the Far East - China, Japan, Korea, has also been studied insufficiently, incompletely, and often - and simply in bad faith ...

Knowledge and **understanding** of the past not only helps to avoid mistakes, but can also help in developing correct line of behavior of peoples.

Russia is obliged to overcome the crisis generated as two centuries of subversion external evil forces against it, and our own folly.

With the hope of this, the author recommends the reader his new work!

Sergey Kremlev (Sergey Brezkun)

Preface-explication

An EXPLICATION is a brief explanation - for example, on maps. And since the book that I offer to the attention of a respected reader is good to read, taking a map in hand from time to time, the use of the word "explication" in the title seems to me quite appropriate.

This option seems to me appropriate also because I, the author, really need to explain something to the reader, at least briefly. Let's say explain why this book was written and why it was written that way, and not otherwise.

Sometimes you think one thing, but it turns out something else ... And the point here is not the inability to cope with the material, but the material itself ... When you start to examine it carefully, in detail, then suddenly such a voluminous and unusual picture of long-familiar - it would seem - historical events and situations opens up, that it is no longer possible to "gallop through Europe" (however, in this case, through "Asia" and "America").

Impossible - if you respect yourself and your reader, with whom you want to share everything interesting and important, what was revealed to you yourself ...

This is how this story about the Pacific aspect of world and Russian history arose.

And the author immediately wants to warn the reader that he does not intend to "build" some kind of intrigue of the narrative, but it will line up by itself - in the expanses of Eastern Siberia and the Pacific islands, *under the sails* of the expeditions of the Anglo-Saxon James Cook and the Russians Krusenstern and Lisiansky.

This intrigue was driven by the plans of the founders of Russian America and American politicians, the secrets of the London and St. Petersburg courts and the "Russian" loans of European bankers, the "Japanese" adventures of Admiral Golovnin and the drama of Emperor Alexander the First.

Russian forwarders and feeders who went to the Aleuts, and the Decembrist Zavalishin, Captain Sarychev and Captain Gagemeister, Catherine the Great and her son Pavel the First, merchants Shelikhov, Kuskov and revolutionary Francisco de Miranda, chamberlain Rezanov and the legend of Russian America ruler Baranov - this is only a part of those figures and destinies, which are mentioned in the book. The great movement of the Russians to the Pacific Ocean and its logical result - Russian America, were betrayed by the highest nobility of the Russian Empire. Instead of the "internal" Bering Strait and the sea with both Russian shores, instead of Russian California and the quite possible Russian Hawaiian Islands, Russia was only losing its eastern prospects ...

MY first books: "Russia and Germany: play off!", "Russia and Germany: together or apart?" and "Russia and Germany: the path to the pact" as a whole constituted a kind of trilogy about the past of Russian-German and Soviet-German relations. The starting point here was the desire to get an answer to the question of whether Stalin's Soviet Union could have avoided war with Hitler's Third Reich ...

"Was the conflict programmed automatically?" I asked myself.

Then the question expanded: "Was there any reason for discord even in monarchical Russia and Germany?"

Wanting to deal with this, I eventually worked out quite my own (and, I hope, quite legitimate and conceptually sound) view of the history of Europe from the collapse of the Second Empire of Napoleon III in 1871 near Sedan to the outbreak of the German-Polish war of 1939, which quickly grew into into a pan-European conflict, and then into the Second World War.

So the first three "Russian-German" books were written.

After that, the author intended to realize his long-standing plan and consider in detail such a virtual situation when the second war between Russians and Germans would not become a fact. Now, having finished a new book on the topic: "The Kremlin Visit of the Fuhrer (Visit of Destiny)", I am even more sure that there is no profanity in this approach.

I remember, of course, the common phrase that history "does not tolerate the subjunctive mood." However, it is interesting and useful to understand what factors, what forces and circumstances did not allow rational principles to be realized in the history of peoples and states. I wanted to create (and now I created) virtual, unrealized "branch point" of the historical process and see how they started to develop events further. Such a point - in my opinion - could be a personal meeting between the Reich Chancellor of Germany, Hitler, and the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks, Stalin ...

The picture of the world could then look completely different. In this world, the mighty, happy, free and abundant Soviet Union would flourish even now. And the partnership between the USSR and Germany would leave a deep and positive imprint on the history and fate of all the peoples of the Earth.

BUT, in order to understand how this could happen, one must also know what was not only the real history of Russians and Germans, but also the history of other peoples at that time, and even earlier. Including the history of our Far Eastern neighbors, China and Japan, viewed through the prism of Russian (and not only Russian) relations with them.

And, finally, the last in a row, but of paramount importance ... We must not lose sight of such the most important factor, as the US factor.

And if we talk about the United States as a Pacific power, then you need to know the history of Russian America. That is, the Russian land that Russia lost not by the will of Catherine (as some of our compatriots are sure today), but by the negligence of the "tsar-liberator" Alexander II, who "liberated" Russia from this part of the national territory that would be very useful to us ...

Without acquaintance with the history of the movement of Russians to the east - to the Pacific Ocean, without acquaintance with history such ancient countries as

China, Japan, Korea, without knowledge of the relationship in the relations of these countries with Russia, with Europe and the USA, without analyzing the epic of Russian America, it is impossible to give a complete picture of the history of the world XVIII-XXI centuries.

Only by understanding how the "Pacific" colors fell on this picture, we can say that we understand it. full enough.

I confess, I did not realize it right away, my dear reader!

And therefore I cannot but repent that at first I expected to limit myself to only one "Far Eastern" chapter in the first book of the long-conceived virtual trilogy "The Fuhrer's Kremlin Visit".

But then the material itself invaded my original plans - stunningly new (I'm sure - not only for me) and first-class significant. As in the case of the "European" history of relations between Russia and Germany, I was surprised to find that the Pacific history of relations between Russia and Germany we "know" the outside world only in quotation marks, without actually knowing it ...

Alas, and here I had to make sure that, getting to know her from tried and tested textbooks and classical monographs, most often have to deal with clichés, and not with the reconstruction of events and situations.

We have to be convinced of the malicious modern systemic falsification of the essence of those ancient processes, and sometimes - in falsification, covered with an "academic" toga.

I was simply discouraged when, while researching the "Far Eastern" history of Russia, I realized that not only were we Russians pitted against Germany on an equal footing, as they say, but we were also "divorced" from the Japanese on the same, in fact, the same scheme as with the Germans.

And this was done for the same purposes as in Europe, and in the interests of the same forces and even the same figures, the most vile of which seems to me Count "Polu-Sakhalin" Witte ... This mountain-like historical rascal with a thin voice managed to quarrel us with the Germans, while maintaining a reputation among historians as a Germanophile.

And he - cutting up the "saber" of the CER (Chinese Eastern Railway) long-term Russian Japanese relations - contrived to expose himself in the eyes of posterity as a "peacemaker" who ensured Russia's peace with Japan.

Upon closer examination, it also turned out that certain turns in Russian Japanese relations cannot be properly understood if we do not take into account the hatred and anger that caused the Golden Elite of the world the fact of Russia's access to the Pacific Ocean and a large-scale transition through it to the American mainland.

OUR movement to the Pacific Ocean was not just a campaign for "soft junk" - Siberian fur, and then - for the fur of sea beavers and fur seals. It was a great movement of the nation, which we most often remember today by the names of Khabarov and Dezhnev, but which is actually consecrated hundreds of glorious Russian names both in the pre-Petrine, and in the Petrine and post-Petrine era, in the era Catherine II and later ...

The story of these times has captivated me, as I hope it will captivate the reader. About the history of Russian America, about the American company, about its role for Russia, about the "American" era of Alexander the First and the connection of his fate with Russian America, about the long-standing relationship between ingenuous Russia and the Russophobic United States, more than one book can and should be written that is necessary and useful for Russian self-consciousness and self-awareness...

Yes, perhaps the time has come to take a look at our Pacific past, if not impartial, then honest and considerate.

It's time to understand what Russia has lost by depriving itself of Russian America ... To understand why the beginning of the 20th century turned out to be the fate of China and Japan ...

For example, by the end of the thirties of the twentieth century, Japan had grown into a powerful power, and ancient China had completely squandered serious political weight, was torn apart by internal unrest and Japanese intervention, and was not considered by anyone as a serious partner.

And today, already Russia, torn apart by internal turmoil and exhausted by the creeping intervention of the outside world, finds itself in approximately the same position. But we are still Russians, having calmly passed in two centuries "from Moscow to the very outskirts" through the Siberian rivers and then just as calmly stepped across the Pacific Ocean to the northwest of the American continent. And I would not advise anyone (and, above all, ourselves) to dismiss Russia so famously from the historical account.

But in order to gain a new understanding of ourselves and see the historical perspective of everything world, Russia needs - among other things - to know its "Russian-American" history (and not a fake of it).

It is necessary to know, I also note, the history of our Pacific neighbors.

To know the history of our unfulfilled Pacific might...

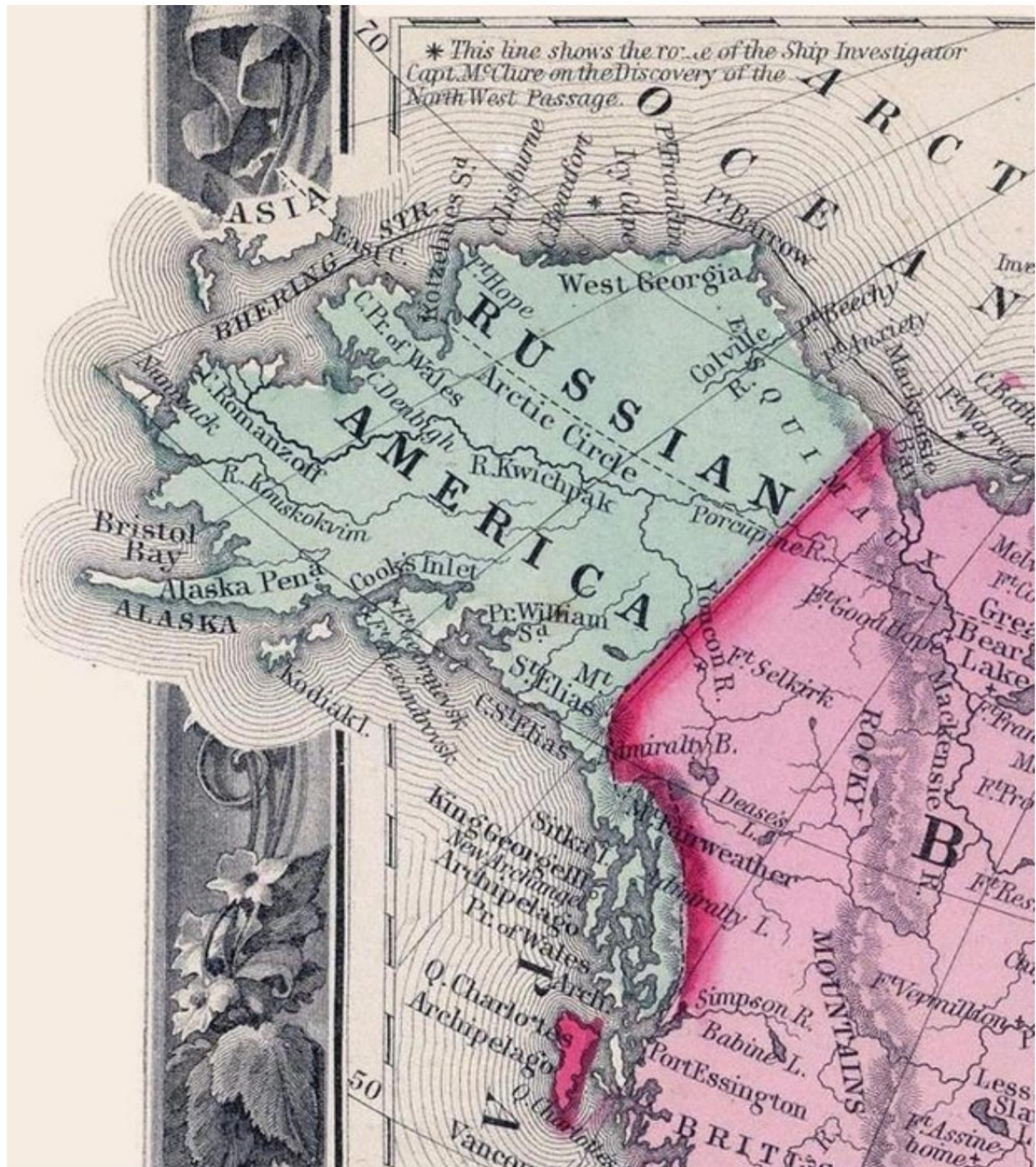
On the high banks of the Amur, there are still guards of the Motherland...

And behind these high shores, huge China still stretches.

And still, the ancient land of the Koryo people goes to the borders of Russia in the same narrow strip.

Beyond the La Perouse Strait lies Japan...

And beyond the Bering Strait, the lands of the former "Russian America" begin, lack of will and criminal turned into the American state of Alaska by the indifference of the tsars...



Yes. This past.

But the future begins in the past...

THINKING about the future, I suggest you, dear reader, go to the old and not very old

the past of Eastern Siberia, Russian America and the Russian Pacific.

In that past of the ancestors, which - like the present of their descendants, that is, us - was repeatedly tried and trying to stir up forces hostile to Russia and its neighbors.

Chapter 1

Captain Golovin, Kurbat Ivanov, "bitter drunkard"

navigator Petrov and captain Cook

On September 24, 1864, the Russian cruiser squadron was enthusiastically greeted in New York, which came to America from Kronstadt across the Atlantic Ocean.

The striking forces of the Baltic Fleet under the flag of the junior flagship Rear Admiral Stepan Stepanovich Lesovsky included the frigates Alexander Nevsky, Peresvet, Oslyabya, the Varyag and Vityaz corvettes, as well as the Almaz clipper ship.

Three days later, on September 27, a counter squadron approached the Pacific San Francisco. Admiral Andrey Aleksandrovich Popov (later famous for his project of an absolutely round coastal defense battleship - "popovka").

A detachment of ships from the Pacific Ocean, which came from Vladivostok, consisted of corvettes "Bogatyr", "Kalevala", "Rynda" and clippers "Abrek" and "Gaydamak".

There was a war going on in the United States at that time, which temporarily made those States rather Disunited, then there is the famous Civil War of the North and South of 1861-1865.

For various reasons, England and France opposed the central government of the United States (northerners), and the British began to prepare a blockade of those American cities that stood for the unification of the country and the abolition of slavery in the southern states.

The brilliant, secretive, joint maneuver of the Russian fleet completely thwarted the plans of the Anglo-French regarding America. And the operation itself was recognized throughout the world as a classic example of a peaceful military demonstration.

To be honest, Russia here didn't quite drag chestnuts out of the fire just for the Yankees. Our relations with England and France were also far from ideal due to the aggravation of the Polish question in view of the Polish uprising. And the American expeditions of Lesovsky and Popov had one of the goals of the possible deployment of a cruising war against English and French merchant shipping.

However, by helping ourselves in some way, we helped America much more... Demonstrative visit Russian squadrons, which dragged on until 1864, was more than welcome to her.

And the London Times stated sourly: "The municipality and the upper bourgeoisie of New York shower all sorts of honors on Russian officers. Processions, dinners, balls, serenades, all means are used to show how happy the Americans are ... "

How glad they were (and they were glad, as we will see now, *to tears*), already in 1913, Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich (cousin uncle of Nicholas II, the famous "Sandro") told his American friend Miron Gerrick.

Herrick was small during the Civil War, but remembered that "it was the most tragic moment in the history of our Union, and the mother walked with her eyes full of tears.

One day, Herrick was playing in the backyard of their farm when he heard his mother scream:

- Miron, Miron, come here now!

The son thought that something terrible had happened to his mother, but, bursting into the room, he saw her with a newspaper in her arms and with tears of joy on her cheeks.

Mother kept repeating:

- Myron, we are saved! The Russians have arrived! Myron, we are saved! Miron knew about the treacherous English, who had to beware, knew about the French, who wrote bad books... But the Russians, what kind of news is this? And the boy asked:

Mom, do they look like Indians? Do they scalp people? And my mother had tears in her eyes

happiness...

The Russian fleet undertook such "American" expeditions two more times - in 1870-1871 and on the eve of the Russian-Turkish war of 1876-1877. Each time, the political benefit from these actions of the diplomatic use of naval forces, although it was mutual, but the Yankees won more than We.

However, by the end of the 70s of the 19th century, such actions were relegated to the history of diplomacy - the United States unilaterally curtailed naval cooperation with Russia. And there was nothing surprising in that - the Yankees got what they wanted from us, and now it was already possible to do without dinners, balls, serenades and joint naval demonstrations.

The sober assessment of the captain of the 2nd rank P.N. was fully justified. Golovin, who knew the United States firsthand, but because of his involvement in the problems of Russian America. In a report to Grand Duke Konstantin (who played a leading role in the "liberation" of Russia from her American possessions) on October 20, 1861, he wrote: manifest itself as long as it does not oblige them to anything or as long as it is beneficial for them.

Captain Golovin looked into the waters of the Pacific, and at the same time the Atlantic. Everything turned out the way he warned.

What happened?

And here's what...

March 30, 1867 by U.S. Secretary of State William Henry Seward and envoy Russian Stekl signed an agreement on the sale of Russian possessions in America.

In exchange for 7 million 200 thousand dollars (an insignificant amount for Russia and even more so for the USA) Russia ceded to the United States the possessions of the Russian-American Company and its archives.

Even archives!

Apparently, long before the appearance of renegades like General Volkogonov, some people understood well the importance of destroying such documents, which could become very inconvenient over time - for someone...

Even the archives were bought from us by the Americans.

And even the archives were afraid to save - as evidence of a glorious past - the diplomats of the "tsar liberator" of Alexander II!

The Tsar, who intrepidly "liberated" us from a huge part, albeit distant, but Russian land, and from the grand prospects that flow from our possession of it.

By the way, the phrase I quoted above from Golovin's report when it was printed in the first

issue of the Naval Collection for 1862 was omitted, as it was omitted and hushed up, and much more — then and then.

And so we have to start from afar ...

The INITIAL impetus to the Russian movement towards the Pacific Ocean was given, if you think about it, by Ivan IV Grozny.

A great patriot, a great Russian and a truly Russian person, which is why he was more than once slandered by historians. Slandered abroad and, as usual in Rus', even more so at home.

Born in 1530, left an orphan at the age of three, being at the same tender age a witness to the brutal boyar palace massacres, encouraged by a teenager to cruelty by the same boyars, he ruled far from being an ideal "enlightened" monarch.

However, it was he who, at the age of seventeen, was married to the kingdom for the first time as "the king and great prince of all Rus'." And it was Grozny who did a lot to ensure that this "all Rus'" by the end of his reign was more sick than by his beginning.

Not everything worked out for him in the West. But to the east, by 1584 (in which Grozny died), Rus' had advanced significantly. And the direction of movement was set with a perspective - for centuries ahead and in the right side.

However, the movement to the east was the movement of the entire emerging Russian nation. It was a spontaneous, that is, unconscious, but historically quite natural advancement of Russia to its natural eastern borders.

Already in 1555, the Khan of the Siberian Khanate Yediger recognized himself as a tributary of the Russian state. The campaign of Ermak Timofeevich in 1581-1584 prepared the final annexation of Western Siberia to Russia.

Siberia is a capacious concept ...

We habitually pronounce: "The conquest of Siberia by Yermak", but on September 26, 1581, Yermak occupied only the capital of Khan Kuchum - Kashlyk, also called Siberia ... Now Tobolsk stands in this place, at the confluence of the Tobol and the Irtysh.

Only ahead, in the historical distance, loomed the future Omsk, Tomsk, Kansk, Yeniseisk, Krasnoyarsk, Irkutsk, Yakutsk, Okhotsk...

Siberia is great, and behind it - also the Amur, Primorye ...

Siberia is both Chukotka and Kamchatka...

And then Alaska...

However, the historical "far away" turned out to be not so far away. Even during the first Russian turmoil (we are already experiencing the second), when the Poles occupied the Moscow Kremlin, a Russian merchant from the northern Dvina, Kondraty Kurochkin, sailed along the Yenisei.

And even earlier, in 1601, the legendary Mangazeya appeared in Western Siberia. This trading port city, 180 kilometers from the mouth of the Taz River, which flows into a branch of the Ob Bay - the Taz Bay, was founded as a fortress-fortress and quickly turned into a lively center of barter and sable fishing with two thousand inhabitants.

According to current concepts, it is a village, but in this "village" not one of its inhabitants slurped bast shoes.

It was the selective Russian people, sorted by thousands of kilometers of campaigns, winds, blizzards and marked by skill, ingenuity and daring.

And in Mangazeya, by no means rural passions were in full swing, by no means rural problems were being solved and business was not on a rural scale.

Of course, Mangazeya is just an exit along the Yamal Peninsula to the Kara Sea, to the Arctic Ocean. From Yamal to

Chukotka - a good four thousand kilometers ... But from Mangazeya the path lay on Taimyr, on the Yenisei and further - to Lena.

And the Upper Lena is already, consider, we are at the Great, Pacific Ocean ... A thousand kilometers, and here it is - Sea of Okhotsk.

In 1940, a Soviet hydrographic expedition aboard the Nord ship on one of the islands of the Thaddeus group in the Taimyr region found ancient camping equipment, as well as Russian silver coins minted no later than 1617, and on the shore of Simsa Bay, the remains of three people, the ruins of a hut, a fragment of a letter of commendation, personal belongings and two inscribed knives. Names were guessed on the knives - Akaki and Ivan Muromets ... Glorious, heroic countrymen and descendants of the Russian hero Ilya Muromets from the village of Karacharova ...

But it was still "only" Taimyr. Lena was next.

In the 20s of the 17th century, Russian people were already "walking" there, and in the region of the lower Angara, which the Russians at first they called the Upper Tunguska, they have been since 1618, when the Yenisei prison was founded.

However, about those times, about the campaigns of the "walking man" Pyanda, only legends were preserved on paper, written down a hundred years later by Gerard Friedrich Miller, a member of the academic detachment of the Great Northern Expedition.

But it is documented that the first campaign of Martyn Vasiliev by the northern route from the Yenisei to Lenu refers to 1630. And in the same year, the Yenisei centurion Pyotr Ivanovich Beketov came to Lena.

In 1632, on the right bank of the Lena, Beketov founded the Yakut prison. Today, a prison is understood as a prison, but then small towns surrounded by a protective palisade of pointed, "planed" logs were called "prisons".

So, in 1632, the Russians settled on the Lena. Moreover, this is not a movement of Cossack freemen, unaccountable to Moscow and not supported by the highest authorities. This is a process to which the authorities show constant attention. In 1638, a new Yakut province was established.

The first governors - Petr Petrovich Golovin and Matvey Bogdanovich Glebov arrived on Lena with a detachment of four hundred people in 1640. However, even before that, Yakutsk becomes a convenient starting point for new search expeditions - to the Shilkara River, now known to us as the Amur, and to the Warm Sea, that is, to the Pacific Ocean. And in 1644, the new governors Vasily Nikitich Pushkin and Kirill Osipovich Suponev sent state papers to Moscow, accompanied by "Lena service people" ... That is, there was already an established "clerical" concept - "Lena service people"!

DEAR my reader! These are all our direct ancestors, and we are their direct descendants.

Here are just some of the names of those who, one way or another, but entered at least small-circulation monographs: Later Firsov, captain Bogdan Bryazga, serviceman Vasily Bugor, ataman Ivan Galkin, foreman Andrey Dubina, Stepan Korytov, Cossack Pentecostal Ilya Perfilyev, Ivan Ivanovich Robrov, Elisey Yurievich Buza, Posnik Ivanovich Gubar, Selivan Kharitonov, Ivan Rodionovich Erastov, Andrey Gorely,

Ftor Gavrilov, boyar son Ivan Pokhabov, ataman Dmitry Epifanovich Kopylov, Cossacks Ivan Yuryevich Moskvitin and Nekhoroshko Ivanovich Kolobov, Anton Zakharyevich Malomolka, Khariton Laptev, Cossack Pentecostal Kurbat Afanasyevich Ivanov ...

And, of course, the eternal "unknown soldier" of Russia - Ivan the Nameless Great.

What sonority, what - sometimes - good-natured humor in names and nicknames ... What scope and strength Russian soul, what fate!

What accomplishments!

And in what regions ... Swamps, midges, uncertainty, the wall of the taiga, portages and crossings, stifling heat and suffocating cold. And they walked and walked ... And some continued the path of others.

Ivan Yuryevich Moskvitin - a Cossack from the detachment of Ataman Dmitry Kopylov, in 1638 came from Tomsk to the Lena, and then moved to the Aldan basin to the Maya River with a group of comrades. There he dragged himself to the Ulya, and it flows directly into the Sea of Okhotsk (the village of Ulya on its shore is also on the modern map of Russia). So the Russian man first went to the "Big Sea-Okian".

Ivan Yurievich returned to Yakutsk in 1642, and four years later, a detachment of the Yakut serviceman Alexei Filippov left by his way. Filippov's "testimonies", given by him *upon* his return in 1652 in Yakutsk, became the first official document about Russian sailing along the northern shore of the "Lamsky", that is, the Sea of Okhotsk. But back in 1642, Kurbat Ivanov, using his own geographical data and data collected by Ivan Moskvitin, compiled the first map of the Far East. Sometimes historians combine Kurbat Ivanov and another Ivanov, Konstantin Ivanov Moskvitin, into one figure, but this is perhaps symbolic. There were many of them in the history of Siberia and the Far East - Ivanov, Ivanovich,

Ivanovs...

The French writer Jules Berne, in his three-volume "History of Great Journeys", in the first book - "The Discovery of the Earth", did not say a word about this century-old epic of the discovery and development by Russian people of a good one-ninth of the land. And not because, I think, that he treated us contemptuously.

Disrespectfully, scornfully - from some unkind times - we began to treat ourselves, not being able and lazy to glorify, if not ourselves, then at least the deeds of our ancestors But the Great Catherine called our Russia "the Universe"...

Her chaotic son Pavel did not neglect Russian pride. Looking ahead, I will inform you that it was his decree of June 8 (19), 1799, and under his highest patronage, that the great and now almost forgotten phenomenon of Russian life in the 19th century, the Russian-American Company, was created.

"Cunning Byzantine", "bald dandy, enemy of labor" Alexander the First? Well, he was doomed to be a Russian patriot by the very course of history, only by the "thunderstorm of the 12th year". Yes, and he was, but, alas, hesitant and too often inactive.

We will have a detailed story about him and his time ...

Nicholas the First was, on the contrary, active. The poet and diplomat Tyutchev, not without reason, refused to serve him in Russia, but Nikolai was nevertheless devoted to the title of Russian in his own way. Although in the end he dishonored his own considerable foreign policy work in the name of the state with the shame of the Crimean War.

No, perhaps Nikolai was also a patriot ... Otherwise, there would have been neither his gradual rapprochement with Pushkin, nor the mass heroism of generals, admirals, officers, soldiers and sailors on the bastions of Sevastopol and on the Kamchatka hills ... There would have been no courage and initiative of Nevelsky and his comrades ...

Alas, Nicholas did not expel Nesselrode, did not raise his sons, Alexander and Konstantin, who surrendered our vast territories to the Yankees ...

It was from them, from the two middle hands of the bar of the Romanovs, perhaps, that the neglect of Russian glory and the results she got.

Yes, that's where it all began—with the "sale of Alaska"! Since those feasts on the occasion of the namesake of "His Imperial Majesty Alexander II" during the Russo-Turkish War of 1877, when under the flowing river of champagne in the sight of the battlefield, Russian blood was uselessly flowing in streams in the course of the assault on Plevna hastily adjusted to the "date".

Alien to the interests of Russia, this war became a logical continuation of that anti-national policy, which was most clearly manifested in the sale of Russian America ...

AMERICA was discovered many times and from different sides. But from the side of its western tip, the honor of discovery belongs exclusively to the Russians. Actually, the pioneers were the surveyor Mikhail Spiridonovich Gvozdev and the navigator Ivan Fedorov, who sailed on the boat "Saint Gabriel". And they deserve separate words about them.

But can we not remember here at the beginning Semyon Ivanovich Dezhnev? And not only because, by the will of fate, the easternmost point of Russia - Cape Dezhnev, bears his name, but also because these discoveries were given at this price:

All this was already on the way back, after Dezhnev and his comrade Fedot Popov, having left with satellites on June 20, 1648 from Kolyma to the Arctic Ocean on seven koches, headed east and for the first time passed by sea to the Pacific Ocean.

Koch Popov was thrown to Kamchatka on the way back, but the nomads did not return from there, and information Dezhnev received about them much later from the Yakuts.

The expedition of Dezhnev and Popov, in fact, closed the continental routes of the Russian "strong people". And now there remained, although difficult, but already more or less understandable work on mastering the passed and discovered. Those continental "odysseys" of Poyarkov, Khabarov, Beketov, Atlasov begin, about which the reader already knows something ...

However, Dezhnev's discovery in the full sense of the word, perhaps, did not become a discovery. And he himself was forgotten for a long time, and the Russian pioneer did not have exact data about what he and his comrades had done. The true geography of the eastern extremity of the Russian land was laid down on the map slowly, at the cost of not only great labor, but also many lives.

Even the captain-commander of the Russian fleet, the Dane Vitus Bering, after whom the strait between Russia and America is named, did not immediately understand that he had passed through the waters that separate the two continents. Bering was actually looking for an isthmus connecting them. And only during the 2nd Kamchatka expedition, North-West America as a separate continent was reliably discovered.

But I am not writing the history of geographical discoveries, and this initial mistake of Bering is not so important for us. It is important that he, sent to the Pacific Ocean by direct order of the Great Peter, and Bering's 1st and 2nd Kamchatka expeditions played a significant role in the future fate of Russian America.

But what got abroad by different (but equally illegal, illegal) ways of at least ten copies of the final map of the 1st Kamchatka expedition - this is no longer in terms of geography, but in terms of historical and political cheating.

As well as the scam with the first European publication of Bering's travel map. It was first published by Jean du Alde in Paris in 1735. Du Alde reported that he allegedly received the map from the Polish

king, and that it was presented to him by unknown well-wishers.

True, the French historian Caen admits that this map came to du Ald from the prominent French geographer d'Anville. And it was given to d'Anville by a certain Delisle, who worked in Russia from 1726 to 1747 and sent several hundred Russian maps from there to Europe.

As you can see, cheaters happen not only at the card table, but also at the cartographic table.

THEREFORE, it is time, and appropriately, to tell about the Russian discoverers of Russian America and northern Pacific "environments". At the same time, this will be a continuation of the story about priorities.

However, first a small introductory digression ...

I would not define the Petrine era as an era of discoveries. She herself is the whole discovery, because only with it begins the connection of Russian intelligence and courage with European knowledge.

And therefore, one of the main achievements of this era should be considered a new mass type of Russian a man created by the will and genius of Peter.

Active Russian people in Siberia and the Far East were not a wonder - there were no others there. was. But educated active Russian people ...

Such people came to the remote eastern places for the first time.

And the new, scientists, Petrovsky geodesists began a huge work on the already scientific survey of the territory of eastern Russia. And also - for the development of the sea spaces of the Eastern, Pacific Ocean, which also had to be bypassed in a bucket and in bad weather. Get around, explore and put on maps.

Pyotr Chichagov, Alexei Kushelev, Mikhail Zinoviev, Pyotr Skobeltsin, Pyotr Chaplin, Vasily Shetilov, Ivan Svistunov, Dmitry Baskakov, Ivan Evreinov, Fedor Luzhin ...

All are young guys.

All names are Russian.

And all are Peter's pets.

The last two from this list in June 1721 for the first time reached the central group of the Kuril Islands up to and including Simushir, and fourteen of them were mapped. At the end of 1722, Evreinov in Kazan personally presented the tsar-worker with a summary map of Siberia, Kamchatka and the Kuril Islands. This, my dear reader, was almost three hundred years ago!

They were sent directly to the Far East by Peter, who ordered that the surveyors Ivan Mikhailov Evreinov and Fedor Fedorov Luzhin pass the exam for the full course of the Naval Academy, where they studied, ahead of schedule, and at the head of a detachment of twenty people went to carry out a distant secret tasks.

Their feeder was the Arkhangelsk Pomor Kondraty Moshkov, sent by order of Peter again from Arkhangelsk to Okhotsk ... Later he sailed with Bering and Chirikov, and in 1732, together with Fedorov and Gvozdev, reached the northwestern "nose" of America.

The route for Evreinov and Luzhin was determined by the tsar himself: *"To Kamchatka and beyond, where you are indicated, and describe the places where America converged with Asia ..."*

This is even before the appearance of regular expeditions on distant shores ...

And in the sixties and seventies, Russian people were already in the Kuriles as in a familiar place. The centurion Ivan Chernykh with a detachment visited nineteen islands, in 1767 he wintered on Simushir, in 1768 - on Urup ...

Irkutsk townsman Dmitry Yakovlevich Shebalin, after the death of his brigantine during a strong earthquake on Urup, stayed there for two years and only then reached Kamchatka on canoes with his companions.

The 1st Kamchatka expedition was conceived by Peter at the end of 1724 - shortly before his death. Moreover, there is reason to believe that Peter knew about the torrential gap between Asia and America, or at least guessed.

One way or another, in accordance with the instructions of the already deceased tsar, in 1725 the first Russian scientific marine expedition of Bering.

Lieutenant Alexei Ilyich Chirikov and a native of Denmark, Lieutenant Martyn Petrovich Shpanberg were Bering assistants.

Chirikov was at his best, Shpanberg - not so much. But Shpanberg should be mentioned on these pages only because his separate detachment traveled the northern route from Kamchatka to Japan and traced the entire Kuril ridge from the Kamchatka Nose to Japanese Hokkaido.

And it was in 1739. The spirit of the Petrine era on the parquet of St. Petersburg living rooms had already largely faded away, it was the gloomy time of Bironism ... But the spirit of Peter lived in these cheerful and strong guys - overgrown with beards, smelling of tobacco, anti-scorbutic wild garlic and anti-crucible vodka ...

Aleksey Chirikov later went far to the east, reaching the Gulf of Alaska in 1741. His report to the Admiralty Board on sailing in these places was the first ever description of the northwestern coast of America.

And, by the way, the first historically proven Russian wintering on the Alaska Peninsula was spent on its southwestern shore in the winter of 1760/61, the industrialist-navigator Gavriil Pushkarev.

These guys (also, after all, the chicks of Petrov's nest!) not only walked along the ocean waves on light ships, but also invented! Martyn Spanberg was a man without a flight of fancy, suspicious and envious. And his assistant navigator Petrov had a reputation for being a bitter drunkard. But Petrov composed navigation and came up with a new tool for determining longitude at sea.

The tool came out "unsuccessful". However, historically successful was his new view of the world and of himself in this world - completely different from that of his patiently enduring, stubborn, but such ignorant predecessors.

The surveyor Mikhail Gvozdev was also in the Spanberg detachment. It has already been mentioned by me before. And now we let's return to it, and at the same time to the question of priorities ...

Between the 1st and 2nd expeditions of Bering, on July 23, 1732, the boat "Saint Gabriel", which had seen a lot, departed from the coast of Kamchatka. Bering himself sailed on it four years before. Now Gvozdev was in charge of the voyage, and Ivan Fedorov was the navigator. There were 37 other people on board with them.

Gvozdev and Fedorov came to the Sea of Okhotsk with the expedition of the Yakut Cossack head Afanasy Fedotovitch Shestakov. Appointed in 1727 as the chief commander of the North-Eastern Territory, he arrived with the navigator Yakov Gens both for new discoveries in the Pacific Ocean and, above all, to collect fur yasak from the local population.

I don't know how successful his last case was, but he seemed to be cool, because, according to the brilliant collective work of 1952 "Russian Navigators", he was killed in March 1730 in the Penzhina Bay "during the winter campaign of conquest".

Shestakov built two ships, and he received two boats from Bering (including the Gabriel). Now for

Gens remained the main one, but in the summer of 1732, due to a serious illness, he transferred the command of "Gabriel" to Fedorov (in October 1737, Gens, being a member of Bering's 2nd Kamchatka expedition, died in Tobolsk, and on December 8, 1741, during the wintering on the Commander islands died of scurvy and Captain-Commander Bering).

Fedorov himself was already ill with scurvy (he died in February 1733). But Ivan managed his name immortalize, although it was demolished on the boat "against his will."

On August 15, the Gabriel entered the Bering Strait, and on August 21, with a fair wind, it approached the mainland ... Gvozdev landed on it, examined and collected all the materials needed to later put these shores on a map.

TODAY, this westernmost land of America is called Cape Prince of Wales. It was named so by the famous English navigator Captain Cook. And named August 9, 1778.

In his last, third voyage, Cook also reached the Bering Strait. Moreover, on the map of Cook's northern navigation, issued at the same time in London, it is indicated in large letters - "Bhering Strait". Cook, and a little later, Charles Clark, who replaced him after his death, also went significantly to the north - across the strait. These places were then poorly studied, and somewhere Cook visited his "Resolution" first.

By the right of a pioneer, he could, of course, name the lands he discovered as he saw fit. But - only open to them, and not visited by them ...

Cook was in the same places as Ivan Fedorov with Mikhail Gvozdev and Kondraty Moshkov, through fifty-six years after them. And, my dear reader, I knew about it.

In his voyage in those waters, he used, among others, the map of the Bering midshipman Pyotr Chaplin, the descriptions of Lomonosov's favorite Stepan Krasheninnikov, and the map of the academician Gerard Miller, already known to us. Miller's survey work "Description of sea voyages in the Arctic and the Eastern Sea from the Russian side of the perpetrators" was first published in St. Petersburg in 1758 in Russian and German. In 1761 it was translated into English and published in London.

There was also a map, in the upper right corner of which the cartouche vignette read "A Map of The DISCOVERIES by the RUSSIANS of the North West Coast of AMERICA. Published by the Royal Academy of Science at Peterburg" ("Map of Russian exploration of the northwestern coast of America. Published by the Imperial Academy of Sciences in Petersburg").

From the side of Asia, that is, Russia, Miller's map already strongly resembles the modern one, but from America's side is much more speculative - which is understandable.

But where we are used to seeing the cape named after the English Crown Prince, on the English edition of Miller's map, it is written in clear (though not Russian, but English) letters: "Coast Discovered by surveyor Gvozdev in 1730", that is: "Coast discovered by a surveyor Gvozdev in 1730".

And in the text of Miller's review it was directly stated: "It is known that the surveyor Gvozdev in 1730 between 65 and 66 degrees north latitude, at a small distance from the Chukotka land, was on the shore of a foreign land and found people there."

Actually, from the time of Bering, Chirikov, Gvozdev, the concept of "Russian America" began to come into use.

Miller was somewhat inaccurate only in the date. But the coordinates were accurate. Cook noted in his diary on August 9: *"The cape, which I called Prince of Wales Cape, is very remarkable*

in that it is the western extremity of all hitherto known part of America. It lies in latitude 65° 46 N and longitude 191° 45 O.

But an Englishman saw this land in August 1778. And the Russians - in August 1732. At the same time, Cook I had a book with a map of Miller (actually - Gvozdev).

We are not arrogant, we are not arrogant. This is good. But here's to us less simplicity. The one that can be no worse than theft, but it really contributes to someone else's theft from us.

Theft of priorities, labors, fame.

And, ultimately, land.

And fate...

Well, there was an honest German Peter Simon Pallas, who stood up for the honor of his second homeland, who in 1781 directly and publicly stated that Cook had grossly violated scientific ethics and unlawfully named the tip of the American mainland. Well, as we can see, a kind of struggle against servility to the West began in Russia far from the forties of the twentieth century.

Pallas was indignant, of course, legitimately. Yes, it was too late ... And what the hell are we in that name, if a hundred years later, we have not lost priority, but Russian America itself.

Together with Cape Prince of Wales...

On this, the "science" with Cook that did not go to our benefit could have been set aside, but now I came across the encyclopedic dictionary "World History", published in 2003 by the scientific (!) Publishing House "Great Russian Encyclopedia".

And from the article about James Cook on page 443, I am surprised and

learned in anger: among other undoubted merits of Cook, this scientific publishing house also lists the one that Cook de finally proved the existence of a strait between Asia and America. Eh, Peter Simon Pallas, where are you?

By the time of his third (!) round-the-world voyage, James Cook's HOMELAND was a mighty sea power. Her admiral (and part-time pirate) Francis Drake made the first English (and the second in the world after Magellan) circumnavigation two hundred (!) years before Cook, in 1577-1580.

In 1579, he reached the zone of 45 degrees north latitude off the coast, then not yet called Californian, and named them New Albion.

And now Cook was leaving with the task of climbing well north of the Drake. "A secret instruction to Captain James Cook, commander of His Majesty's sloop Resolution, signed by the First Lord of the Admiralty Sandwich, the Earl of Montagu, Lord of the Admiralty Charles Spencer and Admiral Hugh Palliser, began with the words: "Since the Earl of Sandwich has conveyed to us His Majesty's wish for the need to search for the North *Sea passage from the Pacific to the Atlantic...*

And this introductory phrase seemed to define the whole meaning of the upcoming undertaking, further concretized even more: "*search for the Northeast or Northwest Passage leading from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic or the North Sea.*"

It turned out that everything else was only in passing - the Cape of Good Hope, open and not yet open Pacific islands, including the Sandwich Islands (we will talk about them much later) ...

To be precise, the instruction also ordered Cook, having gone to New Albion, to proceed to the 65th degree and "*carefully engage in the search for those rivers or straits (and their examination) that in one way or another can lead to the Hudson or Baffin bay.*"

A simple glance at the map shows that this part of the instruction was drawn up, as it were, in the spirit of the main declared goal of the expedition - the search for the Northern Passage to the Atlantic Ocean or to its marginal North Sea between Great Britain and the Scandinavian Peninsula.

Hudson Bay is a huge (up to a thousand kilometers across) water bowl inside Canada, in fact, an inland sea in North America from the Atlantic Ocean, connecting with the last Hudson Strait. It was logical to assume that this gulf-sea can be reached from the west of America along rivers and lakes.

And the Baffin Sea is also the Atlantic polar sea between Canada and Greenland.

These places were well known to the British, but exact knowledge was superimposed on the legends about a certain American Mediterranean Sea that were circulating among sailors (obviously, fed by the presence of the real Hudson Bay and the real Great Lakes).

And here the instruction did not seem to contradict the purpose of searching for an interoceanic passage. However, if, in addition to the map, we look at Cook's route, we will see that Cook followed a seemingly "instructive" path, but did not carefully examine anything in the mid-latitude zone. Although, for example, the Columbia River (now the border of the states of Washington and Oregon) should have been of interest to him, and the Juan de Fuca Strait between Vancouver Island and the Olympia Peninsula, and a number of other narrow bays and straits - too (all this is a little later the Englishman Vancouver really carefully investigated).

Of course, having climbed into such a distance, it would be a sin not to take some surveys there too - at least as source material for the next expeditions (Vancouver went to the same places a dozen years after the return of Cook's ships to England).

But Cook was clearly aiming for another place!

Where?

And this is what we will soon see!

The instructions were secret. The question is: why? In it, Cook was allowed to spend the winter in Russian Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, so there seemed to be no need to hide the goals of the expedition from the Russians. And who else could meet the British in the desert high northern latitudes?

And yet the instruction was secret, and Cook was strictly prescribed at the end of the voyage,

The instructions were secret... There is no need to be hypocritical in such documents - if they are written exclusively for internal use. The instruction was very detailed (in some places - even finely detailed). But her tone at the same time was as if Cook was going north in full suspense.

But the compilers of the instruction and the instructed himself - like you and me, dear reader - knew that the veil of northern circumpolar fogs over the waters of the Pacific Ocean for Cook had already been torn apart a little by Russian sailors and explorers. Here is a fairly typical "Alaskan" entry in Cook's diary dated Friday, May 22-Sunday, May 24, 1778 : *report on Bering's journey and the map attached to his English edition, this should be Cape St. Hermogenes ...*
"

So was the British looking for one "Northern Passage"? And were they really looking for him?

Maybe they really wanted to see for themselves: is it true that the Russians really opened a wide strait gap between Russian Chukotka and America? After all, if such a gap exists, then the Russian movement to America will be very hampered by this.

And if not?

What if the Russians are bluffing?

The masters of bluff themselves ("bluff" is in English "deceit"), the British could well suspect us of this. What if the Russians are bluffing while they themselves are already briskly striding across the land in Northwest America?

Wasn't this the true main goal of Cook's expedition - to understand the situation on the spot?

Indeed, having left the Pacific Ocean in the Chukchi Sea of the Arctic Ocean, neither Cook, nor later Clark, who replaced Cook after his death in 1778, moved somewhere along the American coast to the east - as it would be logical to do in order to search for the Northern Passage ... They very thoroughly - back and forth, from right to left, from left to right, back and forth - ironed the entire zone to the north beyond the Bering Strait, that is, the entire southern part of the Chukchi Sea.

They really carefully furrowed this entire sea triangle, with the top which was the Bering Strait, and the base was the border of the ice fields.

The whole - from the American cape, named by Cook Ice Cape (Ice Cape), to the Chukchi Cape, named Cook North (the current Cape Schmidt).

Why did they do this if they really needed the North Passage? Sources say that Clarke was looking for a passage to the north in the ice fields ... But why did he have to go north? He went to the pole, or what?

Cook and then Clark had already reached the Alaskan Cape Ice Cape. Well, they would have walked along the coast to Cape Barrow and beyond. They, of course, would not have had enough strength or supplies, but in principle, going this way, they would have passed to England with their own - only much later opened - the notorious Northern Passage.

And after all, Cook and Clark knew that there was no passage to the Atlantic Ocean "to the left" of the Bering Strait. will. To the Atlantic - this is "to the right."

And they turned "left" over and over again, although that direction led along purely Russian northern shores - far from the Atlantic Ocean.

No, it seems that the British wanted with the greatest possible certainty find out: is there an Asian-American isthmus to the north, *beyond* the Bering Strait?

Or is there, if not an isthmus, then such a dense chain of islands stretched from Russia to America, according to which the Russians could do without

it's hard to move to America - like from pebble to pebble?

Even before that, even in his younger years, Cook had carried out delicate, secret assignments for the British Admiralty. And, I am now sure of this, his expedition was primarily an action of long-range strategic reconnaissance in order to clarify both the general situation in the area of the emerging Russian America and the collection of specific information in this regard.

And only after they did not find anything resembling a land Russian passage to the American continent, the British "kindly" "shared" with us the results of their "Zabering" research in 1778. The captain of the expedition's second sloop, Discovery, which became the flagship, in the spring of 1779, during a vacation in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky before his new trip to the north, handed over to the "chief commander of Kamchatka" Prime Major Bem a summary map of the expedition's discoveries.

An honest and energetic campaigner, Livonian Magnus Karl Bem ruled Kamchatka for six years. Sorry for him

works for the benefit of Russia are still underestimated. Having taken Kamchatka in dirty negligence, he surrendered to his successor, Captain V.I. Shmalev - just in 1779 - cash capital of forty thousand rubles and all management in perfect order. And in addition - the salt mines he started, an iron factory, a barnyard, strict reporting on loans to local merchants from state money and a new Tagil fortress...

He himself took away to distant Livonia, to Riga, severe rheumatism, because in the inspection campaigns, he often walked hundreds of miles on foot in a snowstorm and cold.

Well, could the simple-hearted Bem (albeit a German, but a Russian) not thank the "amiable" Englishmen? IN response to Clark's gesture, he familiarized him with our maps. And the British are still before their final trip to the Arctic received additional information proving that the undesirable the isthmus is also absent on Russian maps.

It is believed that the main result of the third expedition of Cook was the discovery of the Sandwich (Hawaiian) Islands. But didn't it become **for England** the conclusion - an easy way for Russians to America no?

And wasn't only the ending quoted above really secret in the secret instruction? That is, wasn't the very fact of England's tough intention to classify in advance all the information on Cook's northern expedition and thereby hide its interest in Russian America?

After all, the first edition of Cook's diaries on hot (taking into account the geography of the expedition, perhaps it would be more correct to say - on "cold"?) traces in 1783 turned out to be very much cleaned up by their editor, the Windsor canon J. Douglas.

Only in 1967 (!) year, almost two hundred years (!!) after the "Douglas" edition, in England came out a new edition of Cook's diaries, apparently corresponding to the original.

But hasn't it been cleaned up too?

As for the secrecy of the instruction, then, returning to it once again, let us ask ourselves the question: is it always reasonable and permissible, even in a secret instruction, to indicate the true purpose of a delicate matter? What if this instruction in distant overseas lands falls into the wrong hands?

So, about where and how to go, what beads and how much to give to whom - about this you can and should write the truth.

As for **what** to go for?

For what? It's easier and more reliable to designate "search for the Northern Passage" as the goal, and - period! For which actually follows a significant ellipsis ...

DEAR reader! The version I expressed above, you will not find in the literature. Yes, and it did not arise for me right away ... After all, I am a Russian person, which means that I am indestructibly simple-hearted in something. It's hard for me to think of "treacherous Albion"... But the outside world is teaching us very hard now, and the Anglo-Saxons especially...

And he teaches in such a way that, willy-nilly, if necessary, you begin to comprehend their Jesuit logic, where there is a place for innocence, if there is, then it is false, pretense, insidious.

The outside world has treated us condescendingly for centuries. What kind of non-existent vices and sins have we, Russians, not been accused and are not accused of! And the Russians were too often afraid and are afraid to offend foreigners

unfounded suspicions.

Is it worth it to be afraid? Moreover, we have much more grounds for suspicion than they do!

Only the second - "blue", "Stalinist" - TSB spoke about Cook's last voyage with a certain amount of healthy skepticism and irony: "The third *expedition of K. (1776–1779) was equipped to search for sowing. - app. passage and for the seizure of land in the sowing. parts of the Pacific ok., "not discovered" by other powers, but actually known to the British Admiralty. These "undiscovered" lands K. intensively searched for in the waters washing the west. coast of Canada, as well as near Alaska and Kamchatka.*

Perhaps the opinion of the famous Soviet oceanologist, professor of Moscow State University, engineer Rear Admiral (and Tsushima mine hero midshipman) Nikolai Nikolaevich Zubov, who believed that "the very appearance of the British in the North Pacific was caused by the successes achieved by the Russians sailors."

YES, and with the essence of the French expedition that followed the English Cook-Clark expedition La Perouse's expedition is not so clear...

A source not prejudiced against the French, The History of Great Journeys by the Frenchman Jules Verne, tells us: "Nothing was known about Cook's last voyage, except for the death of the great navigator, when the French government, not wanting to give way to the British, decided to equip an expedition in Pacific Ocean".

Hm, strange ... About Cook's route and his northern discoveries - real and imaginary, nothing is known yet, and the French already "do not want to give way to the British." How do the sons of Gaul know that they must yield what they do not yet know?

Let us return again to Jules Verne: "The instructions (oh, those instructions! - S.K.) received by La Perouse when sailing ordered him to explore the coast of America, part of which up to Mount St. Elias (with the exception of Nootka Bay) was only seen by Captain Cook".

Well, firstly, the area of Mount St. Elias was already not only "seen", but more than once by that time was visited by Russian industrialists. Another thing is that they had nothing special to do there - so far there were enough beavers and seals in places in America, closer to Siberia. Let's say, on the same Pribylov Islands.

Yes, and Vitus Bering "saw" this mountain almost forty years earlier than Cook.

But something else is more interesting ... I wonder why La Perouse was sent to this mountain, noticeable from the sea? AND how did they know about it in the then Paris? And did you know?

Nootka Bay is the western coast of Vancouver Island, which is almost merged with the mainland on the border of modern Canada and the United States. Nootka is much south of Mount St. Elias.

And Mount St. Elias is located almost in the center of the Gulf of Alaska, at almost an equal distance from the mountain of the Alexander archipelago lying to the south and the lower, "indigenous" Aleutian mountains lying to the north. islands.

So, Cook, when he reached the northern latitudes, began in 1778 by approaching the western coast of North America in the Vancouver area and went along the mainland up to the north. He reached the middle of the Gulf of Alaska, "saw" in accordance with the Russian map he had, compiled by Miller, Mount St. Elias and moved further north, past Kodiak Island to the Aleuts, guided again with the maps of their Russian predecessors.

Rounding the Aleutians, he really discovered (there is no doubt!) Bristol Bay, the Russians then unknown - the industrialists managed to stuff enough beavers and seals without reaching it.

After passing the Bering Sea, Cook passed through the Bering Bay to the Arctic Ocean, ironed it for the purposes I have suggested above, and went south, to winter in the tropics. Crossing the Aleutian ridge, he, by the way, met with a Russian sailor

Izmailov. He explained to Cook what the true position of this ridge was, gave valuable information about Russian voyages in the North and off the coast of America, including to Kodiak.

So the Englishman Cook swam ...

And now we can return to the French La Perouse ...

Having reached America, La Perouse, unlike Cook, immediately moved to the middle of the Gulf of Alaska, to Mount St. Elias. And only from there he began to descend along the mainland to Vancouver, repeating Cook's route in reverse.

Why did it happen?

Why does it all look as if La Perouse, before leaving French Brest, already knew only about the death of Cook, but also about the northwestern part of his voyage?

Wouldn't it be logical to assume that the French knew much more than Jules Verne thought?

"Well," the reader may smile, "why not! After all, the author himself said that the first edition of Cook's diaries, albeit cleaned up, was issued by Canon Douglas as early as 1783. And La Perouse's "Bussol" and de Langle's "Astrolabe" went to sea in 1785. There was time to get acquainted with Cook's records.

So it is, but what did the Frenchman Jules Verne mean then when he wrote that they began to equip La Perouse, when "nothing was known about Cook's last voyage, except for the death of the great navigator"?

What, the writer didn't know about Douglas' edition? Don't think...

And why did La Perouse, carefully repeating Cook's route from Ilya down to Vancouver, not even tried to follow Cook's path up north?

Is it because he already knew about the north from Russian sources?

I already wrote about the northern map published by the Frenchman du Ald in Paris in 1735 at the expense of either the Polish, or (remember Gogol's Khlestakov!) "Danish" king, but in fact transferred to France from St. Petersburg by the spy Delisle.

In the days of La Perouse, the French in St. Petersburg did not even need to spy - Catherine to them was quite loyal.

La Perouse did not poke his head to the north ... Apparently, in Paris they already understood that France was there to compete with Russia can't. And the western coast of Canada had to be surveyed, which La Perouse did.

It was only later that he crossed the Pacific Ocean, entered China, and only then again went north - to Sakhalin. And this part of his route also seems to betray his awareness of the state of the then Russian affairs in that zone.

After all, then we also visited Sakhalin, but this way - "optional", so to speak, without any special claims. Here La Perouse - just in case - and went to Sakhalin. And from there he moved not just anywhere, but to the nearest Russian port of Petropavlovsk-on-Kamchatka.

And here he was not looking for discoveries, but wanted to send from Russian Kamchatka in a reliable way, through Russia,

to Paris his expeditionary report. He sent him - with Jean-Baptiste Lesseps, the French vice-consul in Russia.

But how did Consul Lesseps end up in the wild Russian wilderness of East Siberia? And so, before that, he accompanied La Perouse **from Brest itself** (and, by the way, turned out to be the only member of the expedition who completed the round-the-world trip, because all the others later were shipwrecked and completely died off the coast of the tropical island of Vanikoro).

No, it was not from Douglas's edition that the French knew about how things were in the northern and - even then - Russian part of the Pacific Ocean.

It remains for me to say a few words here about George Vancouver. Captain Vancouver was with Cook on the second and third voyages around the world, and in 1791 was sent by London, writes Jules Berne, "to the shores of America in order to put an end to the disputes that arose with the Spanish government over the Gulf of Nootka, and to achieve from Spanish authorities of the official cession of this bay, which was important for the fur trade.

Again, it is strange - usually such cases are entrusted not to navigators weathered by cold and burned by the tropics, but to diplomats. It would be more logical not to start a round-the-world ramble, but to hold negotiations in Madrid.

But even here, something can explain the real route of Vancouver to us ... Leaving England, he, like Cook, went to the southern tip of Africa - the Cape of Good Hope ... There he, in modern terms, "bunkered", and in the language of Cook's instructions, took "the right amount of edible

supplies and water.

Even from the Cape of Good Hope to Nootka, it will be closer to go "to the right" (on the map - "to the left", past Cape Horn), and Vancouver went "to the right", along the Cook route. But - with one fundamental difference! He turned to the western shores of Australia, and turned away for a reason ... As reported in the "Essays on the History of Geographical Discoveries" by Joseph Petrovich and Vadim Iosifovich Magidovich, Vancouver was in a hurry to make an official application for Western Australia, since the British "were suspicious of the activity of the French in Oceania and in Australian waters.

By the way... It made no sense for Soviet researchers to remain silent about this "feint of Vancouver". But the Frenchman Jules Verne is stingy with information: "We will not stop at the Vancouver voyage along the southwestern coast of Australia, since it did not give anything new."

Well, it is understandable - the continent deftly snatched by the Anglo-Saxons from under the French nose is always unseductive, like the "green" grapes from the fable.

But how, dear reader, in London they knew how to cover up their true goals with "secret" instructions!

Then Vancouver really passed through the Hawaiian Islands to America and in April 1792, in the long sea arm of the Juan de Fuca Strait, met with two small ships of the Spaniard Bodega y Cuadra (we will also meet him later). The captains exchanged data, naming the huge island they had discovered by the joint name of Vancouver Cuadra. The course of further events left this

the names are only its Anglo-Saxon part.

And soon Vancouver began to plow up and down the coastal zone from Vancouver-Cuadra Island to Russian American possession

pits - to those places where in a decade and a half our Novo-Arkhangelsk will appear, and even further - to the Aleuts. He was in the Kenai Bay area, on the islands of Kodiak and Chirikov. But even then there were enough Russians

both on water and on land.

Vancouver sailed here, making surveys, long and carefully, often in contact with Russian industrialists and sailors. And it would not be superfluous for us to know that the Englishman was struck by the "calmness and kind harmony in which they (that is, we Russians. - S.K.) live among the rudest sons of nature ... gaining love by their favorable treatment."

By the way, Jules Verne managed to say almost nothing about this part of the Vancouver voyage, which is also understandable. When the great Frenchman wrote his "History of Discoveries", French Canada had already receded into the realm of history, like Russian America, although for different reasons.

But the father and son Magidovich tell us that in his Alaskan voyage, Vancouver made extensive use of the instructions and information of the Russians and that he had at his disposal copies of secret maps obtained by the British Admiralty through secret agents and British close to Catherine's court (in particular, through her life physician D.S. Rogerson) ...

Russian secret cards!

HOWEVER, the English sailors of the times of Cook, Clark and Vancouver remained English sailors, that is, the first sailors of the world.

However, the second half of the 18th century could not but be fruitful for Russian researchers as well. the western outskirts of America, and most importantly, to strengthen the Russian presence there.

There were at least two reasons for this...

Firstly, since 1758 - even under "Peter's daughter" Elizabeth - the Geographical Department Academy of Sciences was transferred to the "special discretion" of Mikhail Vasilyevich Lomonosov.

So far, thank God, this name in Russia does not need any special introduction, although for some reason begins to fall out of some encyclopedic (!) dictionaries.

Lomonosov clearly stated that we need to "set up settlements, a good fleet with a considerable number of military people, Russians and Siberian subjects of pagan peoples.

He also owns another thesis, which we once quoted many times, but - bashfully curtailing its ending, which I quote and highlight: "Russian power will grow in Siberia and the Northern Ocean and will reach the main European settlements in Asia and America. "

In the first songs of the poem "Peter the Great" Lomonosov, even in verse, thought about the meaning America for Russia and wrote:

Then Peter pointed out to the sailors at midnight, In a
calm voyage, these words said:
What a praise to the Russian people Fate is
given to pass through the ice-covered waters of Columba,
the Russians, despising gloomy rock, Between the
ice will open a new path to the East, And our power will
reach America ...

By the way, the last line of Lomonosov is also, as a rule, omitted when quoting ...

And either as a direct order of Mikhail Vasilyevich to the monarchs, or as a direct reproach to them, the following words were embedded in the era: both ends and putting on that already noble dependents with good successes, we leave everything in vain.

Both ends!

Yes, my dear reader, we had both ends of the Siberian Ocean, we had ...

By the way! Peter was clearly not just interested in - "has America come together with Asia?" and hastily sent Evreinov and Luzhin to clarify this issue. I think that if he had lived for at least a dozen more years and found out in time that no - "didn't get along", then the fate of Russian America could be completely different - just in the same way that our great Pomor wrote about, dreaming that called, in the spirit of Peter's ideas.

Our thorough historian Sergei Mikhailovich Solovyov (who, alas, did not devote a dozen lines to the topic of Russia's movement to the waters of the Great Ocean) explained, however, Peter's attention to the eastern outskirts by the fact that it was necessary, they say, "to satisfy the requirement of science set by Leibniz, to find out Is Asia united with America?

Oh, those classic historians! If they saw the history of Russia beyond their own nose, then beyond the Chukotka Nose their interests - unlike Lomonosov, who was an excellent historian - did not extend...

Sending Bering in search of a northern route to America, Peter wrote: "Won't we be in the exploration of such a path is happier than the Dutch and the British, who repeatedly attempted to search the shores of the American.

And for the first time, Peter became interested in the problem in his youth, after getting acquainted with the reports Vladimir Atlasov about Kamchatka.

Not inclined to lightness of thought, but inclined to solidity, our glorious academician Vladimir Ivanovich Vernadsky, an academician since 1912, in his "Essays on the History of Natural Science in Russia" called the third chapter as follows: "Peter the Great - the initiator of science in Russia."

There Vernadsky wrote:

"Although Peter proceeded from the ideas of state utility, he at the same time possessed an amazing curiosity that forced him to turn to scientific questions, to spend money on scientific enterprises even when direct state utility was unclear ...

More than once, in the words and actions of Peter, indications of the bright ideological spirit that guided him were manifested. in this job...

It is curious that certain scientific questions posed by Peter determined for many years, for several generations after him, the scientific work of Russian society. Peter put forward questions of a geographical nature, and mainly the study of the extreme eastern limits of the Russian kingdom. Asian research

Russia, in particular Siberia, received such a meaning, which now seems strange and incomprehensible to us (this was written in 1912, in the wingless, completely confused tsarist Russia of Nicholas II. - S.K.) . To compile a geographical map of these places, to understand its nature, funds were spent and forces were used that had nothing to do with what was done for this in the 19th century (and Vernadsky knew what he was writing! - S.K.) . The Great Siberian Expedition of the 1730s and 1740s, like Bering's earlier expedition, was an enterprise whose financing should have made other states with a more solid budget than the Russian Empire of that time think about.

No, it is unlikely that Leibniz's wise instructions alone prompted Peter to move towards the "Quiet the sea" at first two young Russian guys-surveyors, and then - and Vitus Jonassen Bering.

Yes, and Mikhail Vasilyevich, with all due respect to the luminaries of European science, not with ideas Leibniz was inspired here ...

So, Lomonosov - it was "in the first place" ...

Secondly, since 1762 the Great Catherine reigned on the Russian throne.

Already at the beginning of her reign, in 1764, she received a report from the Siberian governor Denis Ivanovich Chicherin about the discovery of "unknown places and a new fishery" in the "Beaver" (that is, the Bering) Sea. It was about the Aleutian Islands.

IN GENERAL, Bering and Chirikov already wandered along the Aleutian ridge, and the surveyor, Ustyuzhan Mikhail Vasilyevich Nevodchikov wintered on its very "tip" - the Near Islands in the winter of 1745/46 (it seems that he called the islands Aleutian).

In 1752, our navigator Pyotr Bashmakov was on the neighboring Rat Islands, and five years later he and the merchant Andrei Vsevidov (what a suitable surname!) From Totma sailed near the central Aleutian groups.

In 1762, "August 3 days in the office of the port of Okhotsk, the Totem merchant Stefan Yakovlev son Cherepanov" showed a "tale" about his

stay on the "Island of Commander" and on the "Aleutsky Islands" since 1759.

Even Chirikov's expedition brought the news that *"further beyond Kamchatka, the sea is dotted with islands, behind them lies solid land; floating meadows of saltwort stretch along the banks, and every animal is teeming with them, among which there is one - neither a beaver, nor an otter, more than both, the fur is richer than sable and one skin costs up to 400 rubles ... "*

The original Russian geopolitician of the early 20th century, Major General Alexei Efimovich Vandam (Edrikhin), whose name I mention here for the first time, but then I still remember, wrote about what followed the Russians Pacific discoveries like this: "This news whipped like a whip at the imagination of the Siberian industrialists. The discovery of the Aleutian Islands and Northwest America was for them the same as finding new mines consisting of only nuggets could be for gold seekers ... Soon, seventy-seven companies were already working in the Aleutian Islands, collecting from the sea annually

million tribute.

Russian industrialists, as they say, over and over again stumbled upon different lands near the American continent - both directly adjacent to the Aleuts on both sides of the ridge, and lying closer to the Alaska Peninsula. So, one of the first on the island of Kodiak southeast of Alaska visited and wintered there in 1761, the navigator-industrialist Dmitry Pavkov. And getting to Kodiak, he almost inevitably walked in the sight of the Aleut.

In 1760 Andrey Tolstoy reached the Andreyanovsky Islands, which were closer to Alaska (why they were later called Andreyanovsky Islands) ... And in the same 1760, there was another Totem merchant in the Near Aleuts - Stepan Yakovlevich Cherepanov, about whom it has already been said.

Six years later, on October 2, 1766, Tolstoykh died off the coast of Kamchatka, returning from a voyage along the Kuril ridge, where he was looking for the mythical "Land of João da Gama" ...

And the leading industrialist Stepan Gavrilovich Glotov in 1759–1762 even visited the coast North America, on the islands of Umnak, Unalaska and others. There were many foxes there, and the Russians

called these islands Foxy, bringing the inhabitants of Umnak and Unalashka into Russian citizenship ("through their caress and greetings ... brought by them with all the companions

citizenship and in payment of the yasak of the local peoples ...").

The last words are taken from the "Explanations" of Glotov and his "companion" Cossack Savin Ponomarev, compiled by another of their companions, Totma townsman Peter Shishkin in 1762.

An interesting list from this "Explanations":

"The title of the islands and on them having animals and protchago, about which it is clear below this, but specifically:

Sailor-industrialist Gavriil Gavrilovich Pushkarev also wintered in the Aleuts ten years before Chicherin's report.

And in the year this report was presented, that is, in the year 1764, the Ustyug merchant Vasily Shilov compiled a map of the Aleutian Islands (later he actively explored them, which is why he received a medal from Catherine "for diligence in collecting new islands beyond Kamchatka").

And in the same year, industrial leader Ivan Maksimovich

Solovyov sailed with a detachment of 55 people to the Fox Aleutian Islands for fishing and collecting yasak. He returned to Kamchatka in 1766, having lost 28 people, but on July 28 he presented to the noble and venerable Mr. Ensign Timofei Ivanovich Shmalev the company of the Irkutsk merchant Yakov Ulednikov from the comrades of the ship that arrived from the sea islands, called the Holy Apostle Peter and Paul, from the navigator and leader of Tobolsk posadsky Ivan Solovyov Report "...

However, literally two days before Soloviev's "report" - on July 26, Ensign Shmalev received a similar "report" from "a navigator and leader of the city of Vaga of the Verkhovazh quarter of the Kyanskaya tithe, a palace peasant Ivan Korovin with his comrades," who returned from Unalashka and Umnak on the ship "Saints Life-giving Trinity"...

Yes, the report of Governor Chicherin reported the discovery of "unknown places" not quite accurately ... The Russian people, proudly calling themselves "forerunners", these places were already well known.

But now what the Russian industrialists-hunters knew has become "highest" known in Russian capital.

Catherine's reaction was instantaneous: she ordered the Admiralty Board (whose president at that time was, by the way, Grand Duke Pavel Petrovich, the future emperor) to equip a "secret" expedition to explore, describe and secure the newly discovered islands for Russia. Officially, it was called the "Forest Survey Expedition along the Kama and Belaya Rivers".

Ah, the German princess Sophia-Frederick Augusta, who became Empress Catherine in Russia, was still clever in her youth! Here is the style of her order: *"Send immediately, according to your own reasoning, as many officers and navigators as necessary, entrusting a command over them to a senior, whose knowledge in marine science and diligence to it would be known."*

I draw the attention of dear readers to the turnover "according to my own reasoning, how much is needed" ...

How much is needed!

This is not Vladimir Putin with his eternal - "no money, no money ...".

The choice fell on the combat commander of the bombarding vessel "Jupiter", Lieutenant Commander Pyotr Kuzmich Krenitsyn, whom Catherine immediately promoted to captain of the 2nd rank and awarded with gold medals. hours.

As his assistant, Krenitsyn took a twenty-two-year-old midshipman Mikhail Dmitrievich Levashov.

The history of the Krenitsyn-Levashov expedition turned out to be difficult, and sometimes even tragic...

Elizabeth".

However, in 1768, Krenitsyn, already on the St. Catherine galliot, and Levashov, on the St. Paul gookor, reached Unimak, the largest of the Aleutian Islands and the farthest from Russia (but closest to Alaska).

It took a week to describe the Unimak, explore the Alaskan shores, and discover the narrow Isanotsky the strait that separates Unimak from the mainland.

Then they dispersed for filming, and then wintered - Krenitsyn on Unimak, and Levashov on another Aleutian Island, Unalashka.

The hard, scurvy wintering ended, during which sixty people died, and among them Stepan Glotov, the discoverer of Unalaska.

The summer of 1769 passed in new filming. The entire Aleutian ridge was described. And these were the first voyages of Europeans in the southeastern part of the Bering Sea. Cook was then still basking in the waters of New Zealand, La Perouse was generally just a combat officer in the European French fleet.

Alas, even Jules Verne, in his thick "History of Great Journeys", devoting a page and a half to the expeditions of Bering and Chirikov, further states: "The path was found. Adventurers, merchants, sailors persistently rushed along it. Their discoveries pertained chiefly to the Aleutian Islands and Alaska."

And that's it!

Andreyan Tolstykh, Vasily Shilov and their comrades were merchants and excellent sailors, but they were no longer adventurers because they came from solid Russian places.

Tolstykh was - yes, a merchant, but by no means a money-grubber, but rather a dreamer. He searched for unknown lands, rescued wrecked comrades and sailed on his own ship with a name that speaks about the owner of more novels - "Andreyan and Natalya" ... This name of the ship is perhaps unique both in design and in expressiveness, and - in terms of the power of mutual love ...

Ivan Korovin and Ivan Solovyov already in the first lines of their "reports" gave an explanation of the purpose of their campaigns, and these were not adventurous goals and not petty motives of self-serving merchants.

Referring standardly only to "Her Imperial Majesty's decree from the Kamchatka Bolsheretskaya Chancellery from such and such date", then they wrote about their tasks in a similar way, but each in their own words...

And I, my dear reader, reading these lines, written by no means by masters artistic word, marveled at their simple grandeur and ...

And suddenly I felt a surge of instant, bursting chest pride in our Russia, whose simple sons could express themselves so sovereignly by virtue of Russian feeling and natural Russian patriotism.

After all, it was not ensign Shmalev who dictated these words to them, but their very souls and hearts ...

Why did Ivan Korovin go into the stormy cold ocean? But why:

Ivan Solovyov wrote: "for the search for useful goodness, for the benefit of the state, for the spread of the Russian Imperial Majesty of the empire of interest, for the hunting of animals and for searching unknown islands and living on them obscure peoples, bringing under the highly autocratic her imperial majesty's hand ... "

What about Pyotr Krenitsyn and Mikhail Levashov? And their officers and sailors? They were real sailors and Russian patriots, but they were not adventurers either. However, they went to new lands, opened them for Russia and were ready to go from them to lands not yet discovered.

In 1770, before a new campaign, a misfortune happened ... Krenitsyn drowned in the Kamchatka River - the shuttle overturned. Replacing the senior comrade, Mikhail Levashov brought the expedition to an end.

Note that all this was eight years before the appearance in the northern Pacific waters of the first European expedition here - the expedition of Cook, fifteen years before the second - the expedition of La Perouse and more than twenty years before the voyage of Vancouver.

Returning to St. Petersburg on October 22, 1771, Levashov was immediately promoted to captain by Catherine. 2nd and 1st rank. Pavel was also pleased with him, and appointed Boris and Gleb as commander of the ship.

But Misha Levashov's vitality was only enough for the Aleuts. In 1773, at the age of thirty, he died. Eternal glory to him and bright memory!

IF we look at the map, my dear reader, we will see that through the work of Krenitsyn, Levashov and their fellow subordinates, Russia has completed the creation of its mighty - in potential - geopolitical bastion on the eastern borders.

The Bering Sea actually became the Russian Sea. Having disposed of these historically justified and legitimate acquisitions in a prudent manner, we, "having both ends of the Siberian Ocean and putting already noble dependents on it," could enter the 19th, and then into the 20th century "with good success."

In the second half of the 18th century, it seemed to be going towards that ...

The ideological base was given by Peter and Lomonosov, the supreme power was adjusted accordingly. What problem? Work, friends!

Alas, the vastness of the distance from the capital to the "theater of geopolitical actions" created huge the difficulties in implementing any ideas, even the most urgent ones.

We needed people who did not need to be urged and pushed, who would be without an order enterprising and proactive.

And such people were found. Grigory Ivanovich Shelikhov became their leader and banner.

Chapter 2

The era of Grigory Shelikhov, its "underground" "stones" and "Forerunner" Francisco de Miranda

Grigory Shelikhov was born in 1747 in places utterly Russian and utterly land - in the city Rylysk, Kursk province. He understood furs - his father traded them.

In 1773, at the age of twenty-six, Shelikhov entered the service of the Irkutsk merchant Ivan Golikov, and two years later, as his partner, he organized a merchant company with him and his nephew Mikhail for fur and fur trade in the Pacific Ocean and Alaska.

Captain Cook had not even seen Alaska through a spyglass...

Six years later, in August 1781, Shelikhov and the Golikovs established the prototype of the future Russian American company - Northeast Company. Then Gregory moved from Irkutsk to Okhotsk, built three galliots (the flagship - "Three Saints") and, together with his wife, two children and two hundred working people, went to Alaska.

His "shelechiada" lasted five years... He plows the Beaver-Bering Sea, hunts for animals, organizes research - from the Aleuts to the Kuriles, in 1784 sets up the first permanent Russian settlement on American soil on Kodiak Island, teaches local residents crafts and agriculture...

In 1786, his people set up fortresses on the island of Afognak off the southeastern coast of Alaska and on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula.

And in 1789, on his orders, the borders of Russian America are marked with fifteen metal

signs...

Derzhavin called Grigory Ivanovich the Russian Columbus. Well - according to merit and value!

Actually, Shelikhov implemented Lomonosov's program, although he was hardly familiar with it. He is not simply "rips off money", does not oppose fishing and colonial activities research and civilizing activities, but conducts them in a single bundle. He even develops a missionary activity plan. Later, this plan will be implemented by Orthodox monks, and very successfully. There are many Orthodox in Alaska even in the 21st century.

Someone may notice that both Dutch and English merchants acted in much the same way as Grigory Ivanovich. Yes, not so! Europeans were driven primarily by self-interest, and secondly - national arrogance.

Shelikhov cared about the benefits of the state, and he was driven - first of all - by national pride.

I think there is a difference...

Here is his portrait in front of me ... A smart, attentive and at the same time open look, a beautiful, intelligent, endearing face, a well-fitting European suit, a lace tie, a small wig.

Personality, nature are fully declared. And it is clear, among other things, that, speaking in modern language, Grigory Ivanovich was a "man of the team." And how could it be otherwise, if among his employees and associates there were such outstanding organizers as Mikhail Matveyevich Buldakov, Alexander

Andreevich Baranov, Nikolai Petrovich Rezanov? I will talk about all of them later.

And in his sea associates he had such outstanding, experienced sailors as the navigator Gavriil Loginovich Pribylov (Shelikhov named the islands discovered by Pribylov after him), as Gerasim Grigoryevich Izmailov, already a little known to us ...

In the same years when Shelikhov worked in the northern part of the Pacific Ocean, James also reached her. Cook. In his diary on October 15, 1778, he wrote: *"On the evening of the 14th, when I was with Mr.*

Webber was in an Indian village near Samgunudhi (this is on the Aleutian island of Unalashka. - S.K.), a Russian landed here, whom I considered the main among my compatriots on this and neighboring islands. His name was Erasim Gregorev Sin Izmailov; he arrived in a canoe in which there were three people, accompanied by 20 or 30 single canoes.

Cook had an ocean-class Resolution, and Izmailov had a canoe. Canoes are not sailed across the ocean, but Cook was a guest, and Izmailov was a host, and a hospitable host: he provided the guest with the most valuable data about these waters, corrected errors on his maps, and even gave two Russian maps of the Okhotsk and Bering Seas to be copied.

I am pleased to acquaint the reader with extracts from the "Report to the Kamchatskaya Bolsheretskaya Office of the Navigator's student Gerasim Izmailov "of October 14 (25), 1778 ...

"After my arrival at the local Aleutian Islands," Izmailov reported, " this 1778, August 14th, but due to my debt in the river office for the census of the local peoples, I had to leave the harbor from the island of Unalashki on September 2nd to the island Umnak, Chetyrekh Sopok and others (I will single out this casually thrown "others" - they say, what is there, it's a common thing. - S.K.). And upon my arrival, on the 23rd of September, they arrived on the same island of Unalaska, and stopped not far from my harbor, on the midnight side in the bay, two packet boats from the island of London, are called Englishmen. And I, after correcting my position, had to arrive at them at extreme speed, and upon arrival I stayed for three days, showing affection and greeting to them. He served what was his own, moreover, he ordered the Aleuts to yasash payers, when they were there, to hunt fish and be content ...

On a larger package called Rezulyushon, Mr. Colonel is called Dem Cook, there are three lieutenants: the first is Zhion Gor, the second is Dem Skin, the third is Zhion Vilimsyn (John Gore, James King and John Williamson. - S.K.); the whole set, which consists of a package of 110 people, including all agents. On another package, called Escadre (this, of course, is Discovery. - S.K.), it has a commander in the rank of major Chir Tlyark, two lieutenants: the first is an example of Dimsk Borin, the second is Zhion Rickman (Charles Clark , James Barney and John Rickman. - S.K.), all in all there are 70 people on the Escadra, including afitsery ... "

The whole tone of this document is extremely businesslike and specific, and it is clear that the Russians in the Aleut and Alaska region by that time had already settled firmly and, I would say, routinely ... They lived, lived, did not grieve . So the Aglian ships have come ... Well - bread and salt, and I eat, but mine!

Shelikhov's younger peer (two years younger), a pupil of the Irkutsk Navigation School, Gerasim Grigoriev, son Izmailov, was then thirty-three years old. At twenty-three he participated in the Krenitsyn-Levashov expedition, at twenty-six he was captured by the Polish exiled Maurice Benovsky. He raised a rebellion in Kamchatka, seized the ship and fled to France. It was far from France, Izmailov did not lose anything there, and it ended up that the Pole landed him and Kamchadal Paranchin on the deserted coast of the Kuril island of Simushir. However, Gerasim did not disappear, he reached Siberia and soon again went to sea.

In 1788, Izmailov and Dmitry Ivanovich Bocharov completed the discovery of the northern shore of the Gulf of Alaska from the Kenai Peninsula to Yakutat Bay on the galliot "Three Saints". Based on the results of the shooting, Bocharov compiled a map of the "Alyaksa Peninsula" ... Then the Russians called Alaska that way ...

That's who Shelikhov had in his comrades and associates. With such people it was possible to move mountains, and turn things around.

They turned around.

Shelikhov's plans are expanding. He is already ready to trade with the Philippines, crowding out Europeans and Yankees in the markets of the Pacific Ocean ... And he petitions Catherine for an interest-free loan of 200 thousand rubles for 20 years...

The Brockhaus and Efron Dictionary falsely reports that Shelikhov, together with Ivan Kulikov, this money from Commerce Collegium received along with a commendable diploma.

In reality, the empress refused, accompanying the report of the Commission on Commerce with a number of caustic remarks (they say that the loan applicants remind her of the one "who wanted to learn to speak an elephant in thirty years," in the expectation that either the elephant, or he, or giving money).

Historians believe that she refused because she was reasonably not ready to aggravate the Pacific situation. Like, there were enough problems in Europe. There was a war with Turkey, it was not easy with Sweden.

In addition, in America, the English colonies rebelled against the mother country.

Well, perhaps the historians are right - at the beginning of 1780, in connection with the violent actions of the English fleet in relation to neutral trade with the North American colonies, Russia put forward the principle of armed neutrality and turned to England, France and Spain with a corresponding declaration.

France and Spain recognized it de jure, England de facto. In 1780-1783, taking into account this principle, a system of allied treaties between Russia and Denmark, Sweden, Holland, Prussia, Austria, Portugal and the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies was formed.

The balance was unstable, and historians say that Catherine did not want to take risks, but only awarded Shelikhov and his companion Ivan Golikov with gold medals and swords.

But it was hardly a matter of politics, and it is unlikely that all the actions of a woman, even on the throne, can and should be explained by state calculation. At the time of Shelikhov's refusal, Catherine's favorite was the insignificant Dmitriev-Mamonov. And on the nose of the aging monarch was an affair with the no less worthless Platon Zubov. Its former sovereign scale gradually dwindled to the size of a bedroom ...

Still ahead were the capture of Ochakov and Izmail, Suvorov's Focsani and Ushakov's victories at Tendra and Kaliakria. But these were all things, so to speak, well-established, familiar. And for the new and risky, the former clever Sophia-Frederica was already, it seems, incapable.

Having once instantly equipped the Krenitsyn expedition, a quarter of a century later she indifferently noted in the margins of the most promising report: *"Many expansion into the Pacific Sea will not bring solid creeps. Trading is another matter, taking possession is another."*

Although...

Although, my dear reader, there is something that does not fit with something! At about the same time, when Catherine reacted to Shelikhov's initiative like this, she also authorized two expeditions (the one that took place - Billings and the failed one - Mulovsky), the goals of which were just to "take possession", yes

and how to get it! This will be said in its place ...

But why did the Tsaritsyn's approach to similar problems turn out to be so different? Why doesn't she interested in Shelikhov's ideas?

Well, here, as I said, in addition to state interests, perhaps something else mattered ...

"Notebook" historians, following written papers and being committed to "strict facts" (as if they were following every step of the main figures in any era), do not take into account the fact that it was vital for London to cut down Russian prospects in Russian America as well. , and Paris, and Madrid, and the new owners of the North American continent, and many more to whom ...

So, using all sorts of mammoth and toothy ones and correctly setting them up (with something, but they both possessed a good memory, besides something else), it was possible to set up Catherine in almost any way.

To search in the most closed archives for the minutes of the "night meetings" in the royal bedrooms is a disastrous business. Although in their "course" such questions were sometimes resolved that then any commercial collegiums only ruefully shrugged their shoulders. Moreover, the same, say, England already had sufficient experience in St. Petersburg of direct, hidden influence on the court elite ... Let us recall the same Empress's physician Rogerson ...

And what about the muddy figures of Anglophiles to the marrow of Alexander and Semyon Vorontsov? These two count brothers have been turning Russia towards England for a good thirty years! The first of them was appointed ambassador to London in 1762 - twenty-one years old. The second stayed there in the same capacity from 1784 to 1800. Emperor Paul had already set him aside.

And it is unlikely that Catherine's new state laziness alone can explain the situation in which - according to the testimony of the Decembrist Baron Steingel, already mentioned by me in the previous chapter - "the fleet and naval service, as well as Kronstadt itself, during the last period of Catherine's reign were..."

Steingel was then a cadet of the Naval Corps, and this is what his young memory remembered: *"Although the number of ships was significant, because, I remember, it was considered up to 40 battleships in Kronstadt and Revel, but for the most part they were dilapidated, of poor design, with the same weapons and they were not sheathed with copper, from which for the most part they went badly. The captains loved to romp. Officers and sailors were little practiced ... Officers liked to chirp, and in general there were few educated people ... There was a lack of everything in the port, and theft was exorbitant, both in the admiralty and on ships ... "*

"With the accession to the throne of Paul," Vladimir Ivanovich writes further, " everything changed. IN In this regard, his strictness has brought great benefits.

The Decembrist sailor also recalled his life in the Naval Corps. Under Ekaterina and director Golenishchev-Kutuzov, the Cadets lived from hand to mouth and "dry cold" ... But: *"there was no "mother", Pavel Petrovich reigned, and the situation of the Cadets changed from the first days ... The sovereign fatherly took up the abandoned. The visits were frequent and sudden. Caring vowel and striking ... "*

Slackness in the state was not only convenient for the nobility and bureaucracy. It was very helpful to all those against whom a fleet carefully sheathed with copper could turn ... It was they, the external enemies of Russia, who were mortally threatened by both the strong Russian fleet and strong Russian America ...

And it was they who powerfully influenced the empress. But it was not for nothing that Catherine was nicknamed the Great, and a great part of her nature was still able at times to move her to great decisions and designs.

But there were a lot of people who wanted to disrupt them - both inside the state and outside it ...

And there were many different ways to interfere with Russia here. And in connection with what has just been said, I will tell about one interesting historical biography ...

We enter the ESSENCE of bygone years, as if we were entering an unlit night room from the light... At first, nothing is visible and only one feels that there is something here - some objects and so on... But gradually the eye gets used to, adapts, and even weak, reflected there are enough rays to sometimes see not only the true dimensions and outlines of the environment, but also individual details ...

Something like this, dear reader, happened to me with the story of Iosif Iosifovich Billings, the captain-commander of the Russian fleet, whose year of birth is not indicated in the reference books due to "unknown"...

However, this name entered Russian history quite firmly and even in an ideologically consistent Stalin's TSB has a short article about Billings...

It is really small, and I will quote it in full:

It would seem that everything here is commendable and worthy ...

Here, and Sytin's Military Encyclopedia, published at the beginning of the 20th century, reports that Billings is "one of the first Russian. sailors-researchers coasts of Asia and America and the Pacific Ocean "that he was accepted into the fleet in 1783 from the English service with the rank of midshipman, and in 1785 he was appointed head of the expedition to explore the newly discovered islands of the Pacific Ocean and the coast of America.

Yes, everything seems to be worthy and decent, especially since there is Cape Billings in Chukotka. But when I'm in I read this biography more carefully, then questions began to appear ...

Firstly, it turned out that Billings was a member of Cook's third voyage (I learned this only from pre-revolutionary "Russian Biographical Dictionary" edited by Professor Polovtsev).

The RBS does not give the year of birth either, which is understandable, because it was only in 1967 that the New Zealand scientist J. Beaglehole, the last publisher of Cook's diaries, compiled a list of participants in this voyage, where number 33 in the Discovery crew list is Billings Joseph, a native of Middlesex, 18 years old, sailor...". These data allow us to establish the approximate year of his birth - 1760 ... (Later I found out that he was born in 1761.)

But it is strange - in the RBS, eighteen-year-old Billings is presented as an "astronomer's assistant" (on Discovery, the astronomer was an experienced forty-year-old William Bailey, who had a servant, John Lett). And in the list compiled by Beaglehole, Billings is just a sailor (without indicating that he is also someone's assistant, although Beaglehall notes each time: "mate navigator", "mate gunner", "mate surgeon", "mate boatswain", carpenter's assistant, gunsmith's assistant).

Further ... Bailey was listed as supernumerary, and how could he have a combat sailor as his assistant - unclear. Special knowledge? *But* Billings was just a sailor.

In addition, it is difficult to imagine that on a difficult and long voyage, only the astronomer Bailey would be allowed to take with him a servant who only knows how to clean camisoles and serve coffee in bed. It is more logical to assume that John Lett was just Bailey's assistant. And Billings simply presented himself later as an "astronomer's assistant" to those who were not familiar with the circumstances of the voyage.

Such an assumption about Lett's functions is all the more justified, since only the astronomer had personal "listed" servants on the expedition, but at the same time, besides Lett, the "servant" of the expedition botanist David Nelson was listed as his "servant". However, it is possible that Billings' scientific "title" was

only to us Russians.

On two ships, Cook had about forty sailors on the Resolution and two and a half dozen sailors on the Discovery, aged from 18 to 41, for two hundred participants in the voyage, as well as about three dozen midshipmen - something like navigational students or ours. midshipman - from 15 to 22 years old (among them were George Vancouver, known to us, later an explorer of the northwestern coast of North America, and the future officer of the Russian fleet, James Trevenen, who died thirty years in 1790 near Vyborg during the Russian-Swedish war).

In this young company for the most part, the eighteen-year-old Billings could not have any advantages and privileges, and it is unlikely that in sailing conditions and in the position of a simple sailor (not even a midshipman) he greatly increased his level of purely officer knowledge (navigation, hydrography, management ship)...

Cook's ships (now without Captains Cook and Clark) returned home in 1780. And in 1783, Billings was accepted into the Russian fleet with the rank of midshipman, a year later he was promoted to lieutenant, and a year later, with the rank of captain-lieutenant (captain-lieutenant), he was appointed head of the secret North-Eastern geographical and astronomical expedition. A career as fast as it is poorly explained even for an Englishman in the Russian naval service. The same Trevenen did not succeed so much,

although he was clearly more experienced than Billings ...

In addition to captain-lieutenant Joseph Billings, the expedition included lieutenants Robert Gall, Gavril Sarychev and Krestyan (Christian) Bering, navigators Anton Batakov and Sergey Bronnikov, navigator Ivan Kondratov, "master" Afanasy Bakov, "master" Alexander Marakov, and in total - 141 people, including 5 geodesy non-commissioned officers, 4 musicians, 22 Cossacks, defined "in the huntsman", 49 Cossacks - "as sailors" and 9 "Okhotsk port of sailors" ...

The expedition officially had the tasks of "determining the degrees of longitude and latitude of the mouth of the Kolyma River, positioning on the map the coasts of the entire Chukotsky Nose to Cape Vostochny, as well as many islands in the Eastern Ocean, stretching to the American shores, and perfect knowledge of the seas between the mother earth of the Irkutsk province and the opposite coasts of America ".

She also had other less advertised tasks, which will be discussed later. But in general everything The tasks required serious special training from the expedition leader.

However, it is not clear how a guy who went to sea early as a sailor (Cook could not take a novice on a long voyage), who served as a sailor and did not have funds for education, suddenly gained knowledge in navigation, geodesy, cartography, astronomy, and even and hydrography?

It turned out that in the person of Billings, Russia received a downright Middlesex Lomonosov! A the expedition under his leadership was supposed to perform scientific miracles ...

How Billings coped with his tasks on the expedition is a separate story. And it must be said right away that, having just reached the mouth of the Kolyma, Billings, in accordance with the instructions he received in the Russian capital, "declared to himself the rank" of a captain of the 2nd rank, and when he just approached the shores of Alaska a year later, in view of Cape Ilya, he announced already the rank of captain of the 1st rank. This was sometimes the practice back then. And at a great distance of those who distinguish from those who need to be distinguished, such an option for promotion in ranks was not so bad. However, the case of Billings can be considered, perhaps, unprecedented in the history of our eastern expeditions!

And this despite the fact - I will say this, looking ahead - that Billings did not show himself in anything outstanding on the expedition: she owed all her success to Gavril Andreevich Sarychev and her other Russians. participants.

So what was Billings' secret?

It seems to me that the point was that he was accepted into the Russian service on the recommendation "Russian Minister in London" Count Vorontsov.

I am not inclined to say that Vorontsov was in its purest form what is now called an "agent of influence" ... But he loved England, perhaps more than Russia (he lived in it the rest of his days, and died there, and was buried there) . And the intersection of the fates of the Englishman Billings and the Angloman Vorontsov was hardly accidental. And it is unlikely that both Vorontsov and Billings himself were the initiators of the acquaintance here.

Vorontsov condemned the Russian struggle against English dominion on the seas and in general looked after the English interests better than the Russians. Historians give him credit for inventively keeping the government of Pitt Jr. from declaring war on Russia in 1791, when Catherine rejected Pitt's ultimatum demanding that Russian acquisitions be abandoned after the Russo-Turkish War.

But, it seems to me that he did not provide peace here for Russia, but benefits for himself and those like him from trade with England, plus - already in the short term - Suvorov bayonets for the British coalition against revolutionary France (which Vorontsov could not stand).

By the way, about Suvorov... Perhaps some of the readers will scold me for another digression from the direct topic, but, on the one hand, very few moments connecting Vorontsov and Suvorov clearly illustrate the essence of Russian-English "friendship". On the other hand, they are simply interesting in themselves, and therefore I will nevertheless tell the reader about them in parentheses - since I had to say the word ...

So, when Alexander our light-Vasilyich was already performing anti-Napoleonic feats in the name of Russian glory and the interests of the English crown, London threw in his honor caps, cocked hats, and almost not this crown...

And Vorontsov informed Suvorov in writing that during the performance at the Birmingham theater in his presence, after the then almost official national anthem "Rule Britain by the Seas..." was performed, two verses were performed in which our commander was glorified, and the audience forced the actors to sing them twice... That King George III himself, during a solemn dinner after the review of the Kent militia, proclaimed a toast: "To the health of Field Marshal Suvorov!" ...

"In all of England," the ambassador concluded, "at all tables, after the health of the king, the health of Your Excellency!"

Suvorov, in response, reported that his "stockings went down" ... It was he who, in his characteristic ironic and witty manner, hinted that he would not mind receiving the Order of the Garter from the grateful George, which men wear under the knee of their left leg.

"Shame on those who think badly of this!" - was the motto of the order ... Obviously, guided by it, the English king decided that he should be ashamed of whoever thinks that he does not award Suvorov with an order because of English mediocrity and arrogance, and not because the merits of the Russian are higher than any awards.

One way or another, Alexander Vasilyevich did not receive the Garters, which Vorontsov was hardly concerned about ...

However, this story happened already sixteen years after the "acquaintance" of Count Vorontsov and Sailor Billings.

So back to Billings...

I don't know how he "came out" to Vorontsov, but most likely they brought him to the Russian ambassador completely

certain circles with well-defined goals and painted the graph - nowhere better.

Cook's business had to be continued! It was necessary to keep Britain's hand on the pulse of the newborn Russian America and slow down - to the best of its ability - its development ...

To praise the not-so-smart and not-so-competent (and I have reason to think so) Billings and send him to Russia as a possible figure for use by the Russians in the Pacific projects was not a stupid idea.

And the candidate's low competence ensured both the lack of ambition, and his obedience to those who sent him, and the small successes of the work that he was supposed to be entrusted with in Russia. Therefore, the London recommendation of an allegedly Russian Anglophile count should in itself alert us.

"But you never know who Vorontsov recommended," they might object to me ... That's right, but why did Billings take us so seriously, why was he, a foreigner who did not prove his devotion to the new homeland (and indeed the homeland?), Entrusted with leadership a secret expedition with the most important state tasks? After all, in St. Petersburg they did not seek to advertise our efforts in the Pacific!

About the Krenitsyn-Levashov expedition of 1768–1769, the first fragmentary information received only in 1780.

The foundation by Shelikhov of a permanent Russian settlement on Kodiak was not made public at all. And here - on you!

So, perhaps, modern "Russian" historians of the Russian fleet will condemn me, but it seems to me that not everything in the story of Joseph-Joseph Billings is pure, or rather, everything is unclean. Starting from his destination...

He did not show himself in anything serious in the Pacific Ocean and in Chukotka. In fact, the expedition was kept alive by the talent and energy of the 22-year-old Lieutenant Sarychev. Sarychev in January 1786 brought her to the starting point - to Yakutsk, and then to Okhotsk, where Billings showed up only in July.

Billings settled down in Okhotsk, and Gavril Andreievich was sent by him to Verkhnekolymsk and on the way carried out great research work.

Sarychev built ships, on which in 1787, together with Billings, he sailed along the Kolyma to the sea, making astronomical determinations in the presence of a live English "astronomer" and correcting the map...

Sarychev undertook the first excavations of the ancient monuments of the Arctic.

Sarychev in 1789 on a wooden canoe described the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk from Okhotsk to the Ulkan River (almost half a thousand kilometers) in eight days, and in 1791 on a small Aleutian canoe - the northern side of the Aleutian island Ualashki for 100 miles in a day and a half!

Sarychev in 1791-1793 single-handedly, without Billings, explored the island zone near Alaska.

Billings now and then was "interfered by ice" ... But did they not interfere with Russian sailors?

Billings - as a scientist "astronomer" and "hydrographer" (and he had such a reputation for some reason) was not so much to discover new lands in the Bering Sea, but to put, perhaps more accurately, on a map of lands that had already been discovered by Russians before him! But this is exactly what he did not do - almost everything in the Aleut and Alaska region was done by Sarychev. In 1791, near the island of St. Lawrence, Billings handed over to Sarychev even the formal command of the expedition ship Glory to Russia, and in the winter of 1792 he traveled one and a half thousand kilometers across Chukotka on reindeer.

At the same time, Billings sent geodesy sergeant Alexei Gilev from Mechigmsky Bay to Cape Dezhnev on a canoe. And the Russian sergeant went to the cape by sea, crossed it on foot, and then on foot

shooting for the first time described 500 kilometers of the northern coast of Chukotka to the Kolyuchinskaya Bay (he continued shooting in the fall).

In Billings personally, the "reindeer" crossing, geodetic survey at Live English
For some reason, the "specialist" was led by navigator Anton Batakov.

That is, even when there were no officers nearby, Billings did not shoot himself, but transferred them to sergeants. What - because of laziness? No, I think, rather because of inability, ignorance ...

With the results of filming Batakov, Billings drove off to St. Petersburg, leaving the expedition two years before its completion.

If we take into account that earlier, in 1878, the expedition in its overland research in Chukotka was led, as a rule, by the same Sarychev (Billings either set off lightly first, then lightly caught up with the others), that the course of the largest tributary of the Kolyma, the Omolon, is over a thousand kilometers. If army captain Timofei Ivanovich Shmalev traced and put on the map of the expedition, then it is appropriate to ask: why is this expedition considered the expedition of Billings, and not Sarychev?

Interestingly! Moisei Samuilovich Alperovich, a researcher of the connections of one of the "forerunners" of the Latin American "independence" Francisco de Miranda with Catherine's Russia, devoted three pages in his monograph to the "Billings expedition", managing not even to mention Sarychev's name, although he refers to his capital work of 1802 "Journey of Captain Sarychev's Fleet in the North-Eastern Part of Siberia, the Arctic Sea and the Eastern Ocean".

Not more precisely than Alperovich and many others.

According to sources, Gavriil Sarychev was invited by Billings himself. I do not exclude that it was so. However, I do not exclude the possibility that Billings was insured by Sarychev. The young sailor was really a professional, versed in maritime affairs, and in astronomy, and in geodesy, and in hydrography (exactly in what the expedition leader was weak, if he knew anything at all) ... Someone had to and work to do! If he didn't exist at all - none, then from Billings, with all his

patrons could not only remove epaulettes, but also ports ...

Sarychev later became an honorary member of the Academy of Sciences, an admiral (a year before his death in 1831), a cape in the Aleuts, an island in the Chukchi Sea, an island and a strait in the Pacific Ocean, and a volcano in the Kuriles were named after him.

I think that Gavriil Andreevich became - from the point of view of the "benefactors" of Billings - the biggest mistake of Joseph Joseph! Himself a man of no initiative, Billings obviously hoped that he would be able to dose the efforts of the deputy so that there would be some kind of result, and there would be no special achievements. And Sarychev turned out to be a clever one, and although Billings actually disrupted the work of the expedition, Sarychev pulled it out in many ways!

Billings returned without triumph. He was rafted to the Black Sea, took part in the description of the Black Sea coast (no special efforts are required here), that is, as one of my acquaintances used to say, "carried out general interference in the affairs of subordinates."

And in 1799 he was dismissed with the rank of captain-commander.

True, it is sometimes reported that he was awarded "generously" for the eastern expedition (without a specific list of "favors") ... However, Vladimir of the 3rd degree, transfer from the "capital" Baltic Fleet to the provincial Black Sea and the appointment of a captain of the 1st rank as commander of a bombarding ship is unlikely can be considered a particularly generous reward ...

ALREADY having written everything written above about Billings, I suddenly had doubts: what if I build all the same

slander on a well-deserved person, a pioneer? After all, not a single biographical article says anything bad about him! On the contrary, they write good things... And now - Moses Alperovich speaks of him very respectfully. And the father and son Magidovich, who wrote a lot about geographical discoveries, also ...

After all, all my initial suspicions about Billings were based on pure analysis and on the fact of the recommendation of the Anglophile Vorontsov.

And I did find the work of Gavriil Andreevich Sarychev (not 1802, of course, but 1952 edition), the full name of which is: Geographical and Astronomical Naval Expedition, under Captain Billings' Fleet, from 1785 to 1973.

And here I was once again convinced that the correct analysis can completely replace the missing ones. sources. After all, when I got to them, all my conclusions were fully confirmed!

If we talk about Sarychev's book, then he does not directly reproach the boss in it, and it could not be otherwise - officer and man's honor does not allow this. However, in relation to Billings, he is extremely dry and emotionless - which in itself says a lot. Even the wording "... under command" instead of just "Captain Billings' fleet expedition" contains a hint.

But maybe Sarychev was just offended?

Well, here is the assessment of Ivan Fedorovich Kruzenshtern, whose name does not need special recommendations and will be mentioned by me more than once: could have made this expedition with more success and honor than was done by this Englishman. Everything that has been done useful belongs to Sarychev, who is just as skilled as an industrious sailor. Without his tireless work in astronomical determination of places, removal and description of islands, coasts, ports, etc., Russia would not have acquired, perhaps, a single map from the head of this expedition.

As Billings' compatriots say: "No comments" ...

And here no comments are really required, but it does not interfere with the opinion of the historian (without quotes) of the Russian fleet, Colonel of the Corps of Naval Navigators Vasily Nikolaevich Berkh, expressed by him in 1821.

Verkh (like, in fact, almost all decent sailors of his time) knew the conditions of Russian America firsthand, because in 1803-1806 he sailed there as a midshipman on Lisyansky's Neva as a participant the first Russian round-the-world trip.

And this is what Top wrote about Billings: "Did he have the right to stop the trip ...? Should he have anchored so often? Why did he not follow one direction to the north or east, and by what obstacles did he bring us only one observation, while he was called the head of the Geographical and Astronomical Expedition. Captain Billings, returning from the expedition ... left the service. His travel journal was published by the venerable Sarychev, to whom the learned world owes everything that This book has some good stuff."

No less critical in Billings' assessment is Professor Admiral Nikolai Nikolaevich Zubov. Zubov knew how much a pound and a kilogram cost. As a midshipman on the destroyer "Brilliant" he was seriously wounded in the Tsushima battle, as a destroyer commander he fought in the First World War in the Baltic, laid the foundations of Soviet ice science ... And Zubov reports that Billings' appointment outraged all the advanced

sailors of the Russian fleet.

Yes, following the path of pure analysis, I was not mistaken: in fact, Billings frustrated the main strategic task of the expedition - expanding the limits of the Russian presence in the Pacific Ocean in the region of the western coast of North America.

The Anglo-Saxon historian of Alaska Bancroft claims that everything is explained by the false pride of the expedition leader, who did not take into account the opinion of his subordinates, but I think that it was the direct instructions of the London masters of Billings.

Actually, London had, in addition to Billings, and one more of his people in that ill-fated expedition - captain 2nd rank (also freshly baked according to the instructions) Roman Romanovich Gall.

Like Billings, Gall was a native of England, but got into the Russian service at the age of thirteen midshipman - Admiral Greig took him to Livorno to his squadron (I don't know why on earth). Gaul

served, became a lieutenant, and just in the year when Vorontsov offered Russia the services of "astronomer's assistant" Billings, he was with a ship in England. Such a chronological intersection of three biographies, too, may not have been accidental.

On the expedition, the "midshipman from Livorno" proved to be not much better than his commander. After the actual flight of Billings, Sarychev commanded the Glory of Russia for a short time, because soon he had to surrender it to Gall's senior officer and take command of the Black Eagle boat built in Kamchatka "under the supervision" of Gall... And now it was not clear whose subject Gall slowed down the work (He took Russian citizenship only in 1810!).

It's a pity that in the presentation of the story with these Britons and Gauls, most of the "historians" (except for Professor Zubov) for some reason did not take into account the opinions of competent contemporaries of those ancient events ...

Modern and historical assessments of the role and merits of Sarychev? It would be possible not to talk about them, because his deeds speak for Sarychev, and not only in the "Billings expedition". But if we touch on the assessments, then all objective experts are unanimous: Sarychev was one of the most educated Russian officers. For seven years he was enrolled in the preparatory class of the Naval Cadet Corps, and at the age of fifteen he was promoted to midshipmen. And his great fate as a Russian sailor began ...

The first words of the "Forewarning" to his main work were the following: "There are no seas less known in modern times, like the Arctic Sea and the Northeast Ocean (meaning the northern part of the Pacific Ocean. - S.K.), and there is no *state* that would have had more reasons, like Russia, to describe more ways and conveniences for the fulfillment of this useful work.

Clever, noble, sovereign words ...

And how basely, sixty-five years after their publication, the dignitary "Russia" will neglect these "conveniences" and the very positions of Russia in the Pacific Ocean.

THANKS TO Sarychev, Russian America - as a geographical concept - did not suffer much because of the Billings expedition. The results of filming there were impressive. However, the multi-way English-Vorontsov operation-provocation, where Billings (and possibly Gall) was the English royal pawn, in general and most importantly, alas, was a success. After all, serious state hopes were pinned on the expedition! And because of the criminal passivity of Billings, they did not come true.

Yes, Russia missed a lot in the Pacific then, and above all, in terms of very tempting geopolitical prospects. Russian America suffered losses as a geopolitical concept. By saying this, I mean possible Russian prospects in the Oregon region, Vancouver Island, the Columbia River and Upper California ...

What, my dear reader, do not believe in just read? Are these geographical names with the adjective "Russian" not perceived?

I understand, but I do not refuse what was written. And to make it clear - why, I need to tell a little about such a historical figure as Francisco de Miranda ...

Miranda was born in 1756 to a wealthy Creole family in Caracas, the center of the Spanish Latin American colony of Venezuela. Starting with service in the Spanish army, he then became interested in the idea of freeing South America from the rule of the Spaniards and creating some kind of great Colombian empire from the former colonies (but he did not shy away from republican ideas).

As a result, Miranda spent almost his entire life in exile and wandering. He was well acquainted with the fighters for the "independence" of the United States and offered his projects to the Yankees. But, say, Thomas Jefferson believed that North America could rid South America of Spanish patronage only after the Yankees will be able to take the place of the Spanish hidalgos.

Miranda offered his projects for the liberation of the Spanish colonies and the British, against which was directed by the activities of his acquaintances - the Yankees ...

Since it didn't hurt to have such an anti-Spanish card in the deck, no one directly from Miranda waved it off. On the contrary, just in case, they kept him in reserve and somehow supported him.

In addition, the nature of his movements around the world and Europe in the 80s of the XVIII century, his contacts and life circumstances leave little doubt that an attractive, reserved, but charming Creole was also a Freemason, and this type of figure is always without one or there will be no other support. The huge archive of Miranda, which he always carried with him and which by 1810 consisted of 63 (!) bound folios, mysteriously disappeared after his arrest in 1812 and was discovered (only - is it all?) only in the 20s of the 20th century in England.

During the French Revolution, he was a general of the republican army, and then ended up in England, hostile to France.

In 1806, under the protection of the English fleet, Miranda landed with a detachment of volunteers in Venezuela, was defeated, again lived in England, became the idol of the future Latin American "Liberator" - Simon Bolivar, and in 1810 led the struggle of the Venezuelans for the republic.

Standing at the head of the new Venezuela, in 1812 - in a crisis situation of a royalist rebellion and the offensive of the Spaniards - he received from the Republican Congress full power and the title of Generalissimo. Bolivar was appointed commandant of the main arsenal of the republic - the naval fortress of Puerto Cabello.

In fact, there was no particular intensity of the struggle - in active operations it was unlikely that more than a dozen or one and a half thousand people took part on both sides. But it ended with the fact that Bolivar did not hold the arsenal, Miranda capitulated and intended to escape to England on an English ship, along with 63 folios of his personal archive, 22 thousand state pesos and 11 thousand ounces of gold - counting on the preparation of a new "revolution" ... However, he was arrested by eight officers, among whom was Bolivar, and imprisoned in Fort San Carlos.

And then Miranda fell into the hands of the Spaniards and, as a "personal enemy" of the Spanish king, ended up in Cadiz, in Four Towers Prison, where he died in 1816. Thus ended a turbulent and ambiguous story ...

And long before all this, in the year 1786, the "Forerunner", desperate to incite actions against Spanish American Anglo-Saxons arrived in Russia and stayed there for a year.

He surprisingly quickly became close to Potemkin and was introduced to Catherine, who not only

caressed, but also seriously supported even after Miranda's departure to England. The Venezuelan - while he was with us - in one way or another constantly communicated with the entire political elite of the Russian Empire, and his reception in Russia on the "first class" even caused some cooling between St. Petersburg and the Spanish kingdom.

Why was Miranda received so cordially and obviously interested?

Some researchers see the reason almost in personal views on the "Count" Miranda herself empress, but this, of course, is nonsense!

Someone thinks that it was just the charm of the Creole nobleman, but this is not an explanation either. His Serene Highness (just by title here) Prince Potemkin did not succumb to cheap effects, and he and Miranda had long and confidential conversations. And most likely these conversations were about what attracted Catherine and Miranda - not as a woman, but as an empress ...

I have already talked about the British attempts to infiltrate the zone of the emerging Russian America. But has yet to say anything about similar Spanish attempts. And at one time they were quite obvious.

It was during the era of Miranda's wanderings that the emerging Russian America began to be threatened by Spanish activity on the western coast of the northern zone of the Pacific Ocean. In the year of the end of the Krenitsyn-Levashov expedition, the Spaniards founded the San Diego mission and, at a latitude of almost 38 degrees north latitude, opened the entrance to the San Francisco Bay ...

But these were still far from Alaskan latitudes, but California ones. But the frigate "Santiago" under team of Juan José Pérez

Hernandez in 1774 went to the "Russian" (in the future) latitude of 55 degrees.

In 1775, the same Santiago, but with Captain Bruno de Eceta, left the Californian port of San Blas at the head of an expedition, which also included the schooner Sonora by Captain Juan Francisco de la Bodega y Cuadra and the packet ship Mexicoano » Juan de Ayala. They have already reached 58 degrees north latitude...

And three years later, the frigates "Princess" of Captain Ignacio de Arteaga and "Favorite" of Captain Bodega y Cuadra (he sailed along the western coast of North America for almost twenty years and later met there, as we know, with George Vancouver) reached 61 degrees in the Alaskan Kenai Peninsula.

And even then these were, in fact, Russian possessions - by the right of the discoverers. But on July 22, 1779, Arteaga and Cuadra placed a symbolic cross on the shores of Prince William (Chugatsky) Bay. And it was the northernmost point reached in America by the Spaniards.

At that time, only they had permanent bases on the western Pacific coast of North America (in 1776 they founded the fort and mission of San Francisco). Moreover, we, Russians, began to create our own settlements in the northern latitudes. But the map of the Pacific Ocean, especially in the north, was even then very incomplete. Everything was still very unsteady, fragile, in many respects by chance ... Sailors could for years pass approximately the same route in some hundred miles from an undiscovered island, strait, bay, and could make a serious discovery the first time in waters unknown to them.

Unsteady had to be strengthened, "sewn together" with new routes and hammered together with "nails" of new settlements. That is why Peter Simon Pallas, already known to us, in the St. Petersburg "Historical and Geographical Monthly Book for 1781" stated: "So, now it remains only to explore part of the coast of North America between the 50th and 40th neither Captain Cook nor the aforementioned Spanish frigate "Santiago" could inspect ... "

The Monthly Book was read not only in the Russian capital. And in other capitals it became clear that the ideas of Pallas may be about to be implemented by Russian sailors.

Indeed, in the fall of 1784, Pallas's plan for sending government expedition for a comprehensive study of the northeast of Russian Asia and the northwest of America. That is, the expedition that Billings "led".

And Ekaterina, who melancholy noted on papers regarding Shelikhov: "Much expansion into the Pacific Sea will not bring solid creeps. To trade is another matter, to take possession of it is another ", on August 8, 1785, signs a decree of the Admiralty Board on equipping such an expedition. But here the tasks were not supposed to be trade, but, above all, political!

Paragraph ten of the decree began as follows: *"If, through this expedition, lands or islands, inhabited or uninhabited, and not conquered and not belonging to any European state, then, to the extent of benefit and benefits expected from such an acquisition, try to assign them to the Russian scepter. And if there are wild or unenlightened inhabitants there, then treat them kindly and friendly, instill good thoughts about the Russians ... "*

And the Admiralty Board, in Article XIII of its "Manual" to the head of the expedition (that is, Billings), on the basis of the highest decree, commanded: *discovering lands that do not belong to the English, French or other European flag, try to assign them to the Russian scepter.*

The wording "could not inspect due to bad sea weather" coincided so much with the wording of Pallas's article that there was no doubt that it meant lands from the 50th to the 40th degree, that is, in fact, already the Spanish colonization zone.

The absence of the Spanish flag in the list of "flags" was also quite eloquent.

Yes, in fact, everything was defined directly in the decree

even more specifically: *"You can think that there are islands at noon and to the east of the Kamchatka meridian between the 40th and 50th degrees of latitude, then without losing much time ... make an attempt to discover these unknown islands, leaving it up to the commander of the expedition to conduct research and those parts of the American hardened land, which his predecessors could not survey.*

That is, Catherine, not wanting to support Shelikhov's Alaskan project, this time was not afraid to orient Russian sailors even to the Upper California coast!

And they also say that something is wrong in the Kingdom of Denmark ... The Englishman Shakespeare has never been to the Russian Empire!

One way or another, a secret expedition with a wide geopolitical scope was decided and equipped. If she had been officially entrusted to the same Sarychev, then it would have turned out, presumably, as prescribed in Article XIII of the "Instructions". And Russian sailors would have made applications in the zone of the same Vancouver (not yet discovered by either the Spaniards or the British), they would have gone to the zone of then no-man's land Oregon, perhaps they would have found the mouth of Columbia that no one had yet found ...

But Billings did not need to strengthen Russian power and bring new lands under the Russian scepter ... Not for this purpose was he recommended to Count Vorontsov in London, but Count Vorontsov, in turn, recommended to St. Petersburg.

Perhaps the empress herself, after her rejection of Shelikhov's ideas, was persuaded to support

"Californian" ideas insofar as the "enthusiasts" planned their actual disruption in advance.

By the way, if my assumption is correct, then Billings also drove deer around Chukotka not just like that, but in order not to leave the ocean to Oregon. Oregon, Columbia, Vancouver, Nootka Bay - this is all for the homeland of Billings, and not for any Russians there ...

He, leaving the "Glory of Russia" to Sarychev, even directly ordered him not to do anything except filming the already discovered Aleuts, and how to implement the instructions of Article IX of the "Manual" about "useful surveys by sea between the Kuril Islands, Japan and the mother of China states by land, even before

Korea and perfect the maps of this almost unknown part of the seas.

And to go down to those Oregon latitudes, where Billings was with Cook, shish! These shores are not for Russians! Billings didn't have provisions for such a case!

But after all, Catherine and the state-minded part of the highest Russian dignitaries, in addition to Aleut, there was something else on my mind! The maximum task was precisely "Oregon" - between the 50th and 40th degrees!

So, perhaps the reader has already understood why I previously dwelled in sufficient detail on personality of Francisco de Miranda.

Well, of course!

Miranda came to us just at the time of the emerging conflict between Catherine and Madrid because of our planned acquisitions on the west coast of America and because of the Alaskan aspirations of the Spaniards. One coincided with the other, and in Miranda we saw one of the possible trump cards in the "American" game. After all, the same Prince Grigory Alexandrovich Potemkin, although he was called Tauride, and not Aleutian, with his one eye completely reached the far Pacific latitudes!

The well-known Moisei Samuilovich Alperovich - for nothing that he himself wrote a detailed work on Miranda in 1983, believed, however, that "the attitude of Catherine II towards a guest from South America can ... be likened to her attitude towards representatives of European enlightenment" ...

At the same time, the scientist did not take into account even the later, although anonymous, but Miranda's printed statement that Catherine "showed a lively interest" in the ideas Venezuelan...

Alperovich was also skeptical about the opinion of our historian V.M. Miroshchinsky, who published the monograph "Catherine II and Francisco Miranda" in 1940, where it was written: "A number of circumstances allow us to assert with confidence that the patronage provided to Miranda by the Russian Empress was not her personal whim and that it was due to considerations of a very practical nature, connected mainly with the question of Russian expansion in America.

But this idea seems to me not only sensible, but also true!

Miroshchinsky recalls the Billings expedition, and the preparations for the Mulovsky expedition, and the Trevenen project (we will now turn to them) and concludes: "In the midst of these preparations, the empress is in the field of vision (I remind you - thanks to the brightest clever Potemkin. - S.K.) turned out to be Miranda. It was a valuable find for the tsarist government. If Russian penetration into America caused a conflict with the court of Madrid, then with the help of a Venezuelan conspirator, one could try to strike at the most vulnerable spot of Spain, kindling the flames of rebellion in her colonies ... "

I will not argue that Miranda seriously staked on Russia (as the Anglo-Saxons were closer to him as a freemason), but that's not the point. What matters is how he was perceived by us and **why** he was taken seriously by

us.

After all, he was welcomed so kindly because the essence was in the seriousness of Russian state "American" plans and in the seriousness of real government and private Russian activity in the Pacific already in Catherine's time.

This activity was not so much out of hand for Madrid, already weakening at that time, as for the Masonic Anglo-Saxon world. I do not exclude at all that the Russian visit of Miranda, clearly pro-English, was inspired by London and was a subtle and clever strategic probing of the situation at the highest level. And, perhaps, not without reason Miranda often met in St. Petersburg with the label queen's physician and at the same time an agent of the British Rogerson, who had his own channels of communication with British Isle!

And therefore, in the light of the Miranda factor, the course of the Billings expedition and the very choice of him as the head of a secret enterprise look like strands of the same rope to strangle Russian activity in the Pacific Ocean.

Masonic "enthusiasts" - "moles" thus cleverly undermined the positions of true enthusiasts of statesmen!

Professor-Admiral Nikolai Nikolaevich Zubov wrote that Billings was invited to the Russian service specifically to lead the North-Eastern geographical and astronomical expedition - as a member of Cook's voyage, familiar with the conditions of the North Pacific Ocean.

Well, it looks like he was indeed invited "on purpose", but with goals that are not only far from the interests of Russia, but directly opposite to them. By the way, Billings also had a secretary, an Englishman, Sour (Sauer), who later published his notes in London.

It is possible that it was not by chance and not on his own initiative that another of Cook's co-accomplices ended up in Russia. his northern campaign - James Trevenen ...

Already after sending Billings to the Pacific Ocean, Trevenen in February 1787 turned to the same London Earl Vorontsov with a project to equip three ships with goods "in demand among the population of America" ... The ships were supposed to go around Cape Horn, enter the Pacific Ocean, bargain on the islands and the coast to the north of California, and transport the purchased furs to Kamchatka for subsequent sale in China and maybe even in Japan ...

There were many things that were not clear. For example, we already had plenty of furs. Of course, an extra would not hurt, but why bring it first to Kamchatka, and not immediately to Canton? And what kind of Japan could there be then? Japan was then tightly self-isolated, which I will say a little about in the next chapter in connection with Rezanov's failed embassy, and in more detail even later.

But Vorontsov supported the project, he reached the queen, and she approved it, ordering to invite the author to the Russian service. In Trevenen's proposal, Catherine clearly saw reinforcements for the first Russian round-the-world expedition being prepared by Captain 1st Rank Mulovsky.

But what the London lords saw in this project - only they knew, and possibly Vorontsov.

But it didn't turn out the way of London... When Trevenen arrived in Russia, everything was put aside because of the Russian Swedish war. Trevenen did not have to trade, but to fight with the Swedes and die for Russia near Vyborg.

I don't know what he wanted, but I know how he ended up ... And therefore - honor to his military labors and bright memory of him for a glorious death ...

It remains for me to tell here also about the failed expedition of Grigory Ivanovich Mulovsky.

The poet Felix Chuev has an excellent poem about Anatoly Vasilyevich Lyapidevsky, which Asterisk number one", with the lines:

And when the glasses rang for him, "I
confess, lads," he said, sighing heavily, "The very first
Hero was Fedya Kukanov, I should have ... I
didn't ... Just unlucky, Valka Chkalov, Bayduk - what
names! And about the very first - what do we
know about them "...

This is about the Soviet polar pilot of the 20s Fyodor Kukanov, but this is also about Grigory Mulovsky, a brave and educated Russian sailor ...

We all deservedly know the first Russian circumnavigator Ivan Fedorovich Kruzenshtern, but only a combination of circumstances (although is it the only one?) did not allow Grigory to bear the glorious title of pioneer Ivanovich...

It was he who back in 1781, being a lieutenant and adjutant general of the vice-president of the Admiralty College Count Ivan Grigorievich Chernyshev, was appointed by Chernyshev the commander of a ship equipped at the expense of the count on a round-the-world trip. But that ship never got into it went...

It was on the "Mstislav" of Mulovsky that the future ally of Kruzenshtern, the Ukrainian Lisiansky, served.

And Kruzenshtern himself served and fought on the Mstislav, who learned from Mulovsky about those who had broken plans to bypass, finally, the Russians around the "ball" ...

And not just to get around, but in the interests of Russian America.

Yes, and in what interests!

With what tasks and goals!

Oh, what the first Russian circumnavigator - and by right - should have been Captain Mulovsky!

After all, he had to do nothing more and nothing less, how to accomplish a deed, huge in its potential ... More greater than what Billings should have done and thwarted!

I am here, dear reader, and I myself am puzzled, but I report that the fact remains: Catherine, who seems to be cautious in Pacific affairs, on December 22, 1786, issued a potentially important decree on sending ships from the Baltic Sea to the Pacific Ocean. And on January 2, 1787, a specific order was issued to equip the squadron of Captain 1st Rank Mulovsky - two frigates and two armed sloops.

Grigory Ivanovich was chosen for his education, versatility of knowledge (he owned, by the way, four languages) and for maritime experience, which made him one of the best Russian sailors.

And he was given a grandiose task - to secure the rights of Russia to the lands discovered by the Russians in the Pacific ocean. And the expedition project was based on the project ... Shelikhov, compiled on the advice of Sarychev.

Difficult, you know, "storms" rocked the Russian state ship on clerical Petersburg open spaces, and he was thrown up and down ...

A 27-point instruction was developed. The expedition, in particular, was supposed to pass between 40 and 50 degrees north latitude to Nootka Bay on Vancouver Island (then, however, it was not so

called), check if there are any settlements there (and they were not there) and all the lands up to Alaska "formally take over" ...

The frigates "Kholmogory", "Solovki" and the sloops "Turukhan" and "Sokol" were supposed to be assigned to the campaign.

The Spanish ambassador to Russia Normandes reported in February 1787 to Madrid and more! The Empress intended to proclaim her sovereignty over a part of the American continent from the coast opposite Kamchatka to Hudson Bay (which is

in fact, a huge inland sea in the north of the continent!) and Mount St. Elias in the middle of the Gulf of Alaska. And this is in addition to what the Russians have already mastered north of Mount Ilya - that is, the Aleutian Islands, the islands of the Bering Sea and Alaska itself!

Then Catherine intended to announce to the European powers that Mulovsky's task was not only to consolidate the rights of Russians, but also to protect them, if necessary, by armed force.

And then it was not just a phrase!

Russia then was by no means weak both militarily and economically and industrially. Academician Yevgeny Viktorovich Tarle (unconditionally clever, although a historian and ambiguous) has an early work of 1910 with the expressive title "Was Catherine's Russia a backward country?", Which, in fact, already contained the answer - "NO!".

Such an important detail: the positive balance of our foreign trade amounted to no less than 5 million rubles (and perhaps three or four times as much). So there was something to strengthen our right. And there was lead, and gold!

But here again the "Englishwoman" screwed up ... London was getting in the throat and the new trade Russian-French treaty of 1786, and Russian successes in the South, and Russian plans in America ... London provoked Turkey into a new war with us, and then Sweden. Not in the Scandinavian way, the extravagant Swedish king Gustav III set out to return the lands lost under Peter and even take control of St. Petersburg (!).

Not only Trevenen, but also Mulovsky had to fight. By decree of the Empress of October 28, 1787, the expedition was canceled, Mulovsky on the Mstislav began a military campaign, participated in the battle of Gogland in 1788, and on July 17, 1789, in the battle near the island of Eland (off the southern coast of Sweden), he died with the rank of captain - foreman.

A year later, the war ended with the Peace of Verel, according to which the Russians and Swedes remained "with their own" ... Only England turned out to be a clear winner. And, although her hostility towards Russia was obvious, her unspoken positions in St. Petersburg were strengthened ...

Isn't that why, among other things, neglect of affairs was more and more encouraged, and people of business moved into far corner?

Isn't that why Billings was valued above Sarychev, and Trevenen's epigon projects were empress so that they were placed above the original projects of Shelikhov?

Catherine was aging, desolation was growing ...

Something could change the new reign of the new emperor Paul, which began on November 6, 1796

of the year...

HOWEVER, Shelikhov died in 1795, even before Paul's accession. And he died young - forty-eight years old, in Irkutsk, suddenly.

And that's interesting, my dear reader!

The same Baron Steingel (Decembrist) knew the Siberian-Far Eastern situation very well already due to the fact that he served a lot in those parts, from 1802 to 1806 he commanded the transport "St. John the Theologian" in the Sea of Okhotsk, made two navigations.

Back in 1812, long before Nevelskoy, Vladimir Ivanovich, as he later recalled, "had the opportunity to inform Admiral Mordvinov of his idea of the possibility of reconnaissance of the Amur without giving the Chinese a reason for suspicion and displeasure." Mordvinov recognized this idea as "workable", although it turned into a deed only after more than thirty years.

Knowing Siberia and the Far East well, Steingel was well acquainted with the history of Shelikhov, and also with many people close to him.

So, from a long-term employee of Grigory Ivanovich, who was engaged in his "American" affairs as the ruler of the Russian settlements of the North-Eastern Company (later - one of the directors of the Russian-American Company), Evstraty Ivanovich Delarov, Steingel heard the following, by his definition, "anecdote" (At that time, this word denoted, however, a very real story about some interesting event) ...

In the eighties, Shelikhov went to his American "patrimonial estates", leaving his wife at home. She immediately began an affair with a certain official, was about to marry him and spread a rumor that her husband, "went out of America to Kamchatka, died." Shelikhov's brother Vasily contributed to this intention of the daughter-in-law and the rumor.

"But suddenly," Steingel narrated from the words of Delarov, "a letter was received quite inopportunistically that Shelikhov was alive and following him was going from Kamchatka to Okhotsk. In this critical situation, the wife decided upon arrival, poison him ... "

Shelikhov pre-empted the situation and wanted to deal with the guilty harshly. In Steingel's program, Shelikhov was dissuaded by another close associate of his, the clerk Baranov (we will get to know him better).

Baranov persuaded the owner to "spare his name."

Delarov's (or Steingel's) interpretation is inaccurate in some particulars. So, Baranov began working for Shelikhov only from August 1790, and not from the 80s. But he had been a merchant in Irkutsk since 1780, he was, of course, well acquainted with Shelikhov, and their relationship was, of course, trusting. Therefore, Delarov's dating can be recognized as generally correct.

Steingel concluded: "Perhaps this incident, which could not hide from the Irkutsk public, was the reason that the sudden death of Shelikhov, which followed in Irkutsk in 1795, was attributed by many to the art of his wife, who later, having marked herself with debauchery, ended her life unhappy. way, being taken to the extreme by one of her admirers ... "

I'm not a historian, but I'm not a novelist either. I am not a slave to facts, but I am not a servant of my imagination either. My goal is opportunities, reconstruction of the past. But I can speculate...

"Look for who benefits," the ancient Romans advised. And who benefited from Shelikhov's death?

Wife? The Irkutsk gossips could not see any other reason - especially since the precedent, so to speak, took place ... But several years have passed since then. Much burned out, and once caught, an unfaithful wife would fall under suspicion in the event of the sudden death of her husband first. But neither Baranov nor Delarov blamed her for the death of their boss.

Brother Vasily? But he was not a direct heir.

But what about those to whom the active figure of Shelikhov was across the throat? That is, about powerful and secret external forces? After all, they were absolutely not satisfied with that version of the development of the geopolitical situation in the Pacific Ocean, which was Shelikhov's "creed"?

After all, they already had long arms in Russia, and intelligent agents, not only from the time of Catherine, but much earlier ... Five years later, these hands reached out to the very autocrat of the All-Russian!

I have already spoken of James Cook's last voyage as a strategic reconnaissance mission for the Russian situation. But if this is true, then in such a voyage people are not picked up from the pine forest (although then it was far from the current inspections), that is, those who know how to keep their mouths shut and have an understanding. And such people are no longer just a crew. This is frames!

So, not only Billings and Trevenen, known to us, who later ended up in Russia, sailed on Cook's ships, but also Corporal of the Marine Corps John Ledyard, about whom the modern publisher of Cook's diaries, Beaglehole, briefly reports: "made a trip to Siberia in 1787-1789 "... Ledyard went to Russia at a quite mature age - at thirty-six years old. And for what, sorry, the hell did he go there - into the Russian snows, into the Siberian wilderness ... And the marines on the English ships at that time were something like special services ...

It is significant that when Cook's ships approached the Russian Alaskan island of Unalashka, Cook sent the "intelligent American" Ledyard first to the shore.

Yes, this John was Uncle Sam's son. And his Siberian "lediardiada" looks, upon closer inspection, as pure reconnaissance action - even though the connoisseur of Russian-American relations academician Bolkhovitinov in 1997 portrayed him as just an inquisitive traveler.

But let the reader decide for himself...

Yankee Ledyard in the 80s suddenly decided to travel through Siberia and Russian America in USA. Jefferson, Marquis Lafayette and Baron Grimm tried to get permission from Catherine.

What did they have in some corporal?

Catherine replied: "*Lediard will do the right thing if he chooses a different path, and not through Kamchatka.*"

Nevertheless, the American arrived in St. Petersburg in March 1787 without permission, and already in May, through some officer from Tsarevich Pavel's entourage, he received papers of a dubious nature: a passport from the provincial capital government in the name of "an American nobleman (! - S.K.) Ledyard" and road from the post office. It is clear that there were no bribes.

History - in the spirit of a spreading Hollywood cranberry, but here it is - real.

On August 18, 1787, he was already in Irkutsk and was looking for a meeting not with anyone, but with Shelikhov. They saw each other, and immediately after the conversation, Grigory Ivanovich presented to the Irkutsk and Kolyvan Governor General Ivan Varfolomeevich Yakobi "Remarks from the conversations of the former Irkutsk voyager of the English nation Levdar."

Shelikhov reported: "*With ardent curiosity, he asked me where and in what places I was, how far from the Russian side fishing and trading in the North-Eastern Ocean and on mother American soil are common, in what places and under which degrees of northern latitude are our establishments and put **state signs** ...*"

Ledyard was also interested in:

- "Are there many of our vessels in the fishery";
- what are the cards;
- how many Russian settlements are in Russian America;
- how many Russians are there;
- what are Shelikhov's plans and much more ...

Faced with a downpour of apparently intelligence questions, Grigory Ivanovich was outwardly polite but cautious. He himself began to question Ledyard about Cook's voyage, but his interlocutor "rejected Shelikhov's questions with dark arguments."

Shelikhov became even more wary, was outwardly frank - he showed maps, but the scale of the Russian penetration into America

anyway exaggerated. And in order to look like a simpleton in front of the Anglo-Saxon, he invited him to sail with him next summer. Jacobi himself informed.

Lieutenant-General Jacobi (Jacobius) was a strong personality (in 1805, Lisiansky named an island in the Alexander Archipelago in his honor) and, like Shelikhov, was convinced of the need to strengthen Russia in the northern zone of the Pacific Ocean. With Shelikhov, they understood each other very well. And in November 1787, Jacobi sent an extensive report to Count Bezborodko about Ledyard's "tricks" and directly suggests that he was "sent here to reconnoiter the situation of these places from the Aglian state."

Perhaps, the Irkutsk governor-general was mistaken in only one thing - the former corporal of the marine corps was, presumably, an agent not so much of the English crown or Jefferson as an agent of supranational forces (which, however, even then did not differ much).

Jacobi himself did not dare to open the mail of the "American nobleman", but recommended this to Bezborodko. Ledyard, meanwhile, moved freely across Siberia. I think that he simply had to do what is now called recruitment, the creation of residencies and

planting agents.

It seems that his letters were not perused (they safely reached England), but Catherine gave the order for arrest and expulsion, and he was received in Irkutsk in January 1788. Ledyard had just returned to Irkutsk from Yakutsk with his swimming friend Cook, Billings (!!!).

That's how!

And then - as Jacobi informed the Empress in a letter dated February 1 - on this day he was expelled from here without any insult to him for supervision in Moscow when I wrote to the commander-in-chief in this general-in-chief and cavalier Eropkin. And from there the Anglo-Saxon spy was sent to the western borders of the empire - to Koenigsberg.

So the Anglo-Saxons had even before the Lawrences of Arabia and the Ledyards of Siberia ... And besides them, it must be assumed, there was someone else - from Russian agents such as an unnamed Pavlovian officer, metropolitan postal clerks and other "five-column" riffraff ...

And the Anglo-Saxons understood the scale of Shelikhov's significance perfectly. They understood the meaning of it elimination.

Ledyard could already direct his Siberian agents to liquidate Shelikhov. And why would No? He already understood from personal experience what Grigory Ivanovich was like and how dangerous he was for the Anglo-Saxons.

To frame the death of a Russian businessman with a statesman's mind as an accident ... To insure, start a rumor about a "traitor" ... And then - for the same safety net - deftly remove the "traitor" herself, since her lifestyle was such that no one was surprised at her death ...

Was there such an underlying reason for the death of Grigory Ivanovich?

"Well, he also denied the inclinations of a novelist!" the reader may smirk.

| Well, I do not insist on my version, although, I repeat, I have the right to make an assumption ... Especially since in our "American" history this was the first, but, alas, not the last significant "unexpected" death that changed the possible prospects of Russian America drastically. I'll talk about that later...

One way or another, Shelikhov's affairs passed to the widow Natalya Alekseevna. However, true his son-in-law, Nikolai Petrovich Rezanov, became the successor of his business.

Shelikhov and Rezanov brought together, although not knowing about it, Catherine, who sent a young capable official, the ruler of the office of Gavril Romanovich Derzhavin (!), To Eastern Siberia "for institutions of maritime affairs and shipbuilding.

Having such an assignment, it was impossible not to get acquainted with Shelikhov, and a year before the death of Grigory Ivanovich, they became related - Rezanov married his daughter.

On November 6, 1796, Catherine also died. Paul ascended the throne. In Russian historiography, his figure is absent - it is replaced by a caricature. However, to honestly rehabilitate him is not only a difficult task due to the complexity of Paul's nature, but also not mine ...

I'll just remind you that since 1762, for thirty-four years, Pavel was the Russian Admiral General and head of the Admiralty Board. So his attitude to the fleet and to the idea of the broad development of Russian America turned out to be not only truly statesmanlike, but also based on a good knowledge of the subject. The fact that the fleet was in the neglect that Steingel spoke about was not the fault of the admiral general, because the mother-empress of her son most often simply ignored it.

And as a boy, after reading Lomonosov's book (!), he passionately demanded to find a passage through the north to America!

In letters to Count Nikolai Petrovich Rumyantsev (we will meet him later), the Tsarevich wrote: "Thirty years without doing anything!" For an active nature - not even torture, but something more!

And now he, Pavel, was the master of the state ... And immediately, I note, he turned his "highest" attention to the living future of the Russian fleet - the students of the Naval Corps!

By the way, he also cared about the living past of the fleet! Even when he was Tsarevich, he built a disabled home for old sailors on Kamenny Island and gave his general to maintain it. admiral's salary.

And one more thing - by the way ... Catherine's president of the Academy of Sciences, Count Razumovsky, was such purely nominally, but in fact, before Paul's accession, everything was in charge of the "director" of the Academy of the chamber junker P.P. Bakunin, who brought the Academy to financial ruin and could not stand scientists.

Pavel abolished the post of director, dismissed Bakunin and appointed the president of the Baron Academy Heinrich Ludwig Nicolai is an educated person who understands the needs of scientists.

This is how the "mad" Pavel began ...

On August 5, 1797, the College of Commerce presented him with a report "On the harmfulness of many in America companies", and in January 1799 - a report on the establishment of the North American Trading Company.

On July 9, the emperor's decree follows the Governing Senate on the creation "under our Highest patronage" of the Russian-American Company (RAC).

Rezanov was then already chief secretary of the Senate, and his initiative and outstanding role in the preparation of the decree is undeniable. But let's not lose sight, my dear reader, of the role played here by the one who signed this decree!

The first paragraph of RAC privileges deserves to be quoted in full:

Japan at that time was still in a state of deep self-isolation, and even the fleet was more or less not suitable for ocean navigation. So what kind of claims to the Kuriles can we talk about here?

The initial capital of the RAC consisted of 724 thousand rubles, divided into 724 shares of a thousand rubles, plus another thousand shares.

As you can see, it was not the absence of the highest financial credit that was the main hitch, but the absence of highest credit. *This* credit appeared, and the need for a loan disappeared.

The largest shareholder was the second son-in-law of Shelikhov, Mikhail Matveyevich Buldakov - 370 shares.

It must be said that not only Shelikhov knew how to choose employees, but also his daughters - husbands, because Mikhail Buldakov turned out to be a person who was quite a match for his energetic father-in-law. A merchant's son from Veliky Ustyug, he, having no systematic education, nevertheless succeeded at first in trade with the Chinese in Kyakhta, and then in Irkutsk he began to work for Shelikhov. With Rezanov

they were almost the same weather (Rezanov was born in 1764, and Buldakov was born in 1766) and understood each other Wonderful.

Pioneer traditions were not only long-standing among Veliky Ustyug residents (as well as among people from neighboring Totma). They were without exaggeration outstanding. Semyon Dezhnev, Vladimir Atlasov came from the ancient Russian city, standing at the confluence of the Sukhona and South rivers into the Northern Dvina, Yerofey Khabarov lived there in his youth ...

In Ustyug, the waterway converged along the Northern Dvina through the White Sea to the West and the ancient Pechora way, which made it the country's main fur market in the 17th century.

Even earlier, in 1565, Ivan the Terrible included Veliky Ustyug among the 19 oprichnina cities, which further strengthened the proud spirit of independence in Ustyug residents.

In post-Petrine Russia, the commercial importance of the city quickly fell, but the legends and traditions were not forgotten ... Therefore, it was easy for Buldakov to assimilate both the non-petty business scope and the taste for the new, which lay far beyond the familiar and close.

Rezanov was a dreamer and bookish romantic. Buldakov, on the other hand, represented the type of romantic, so say practical...

The death of Ekaterina made their father-in-law's long-standing project relevant again, Rezanov was busy in the capital, and Buldakov had to calm down the ambitions of competitors in Siberia - low-flying birds, but greedy.

When the Irkutsk shareholders elected three directors of the RAC from among themselves, Pavel (which does him credit!) wished that among them there must be a member of the Shelikhov family, and on November 15, 1799, he directly pointed to the thirty-three-year-old Buldakov as the "prime director" with the award of the sword And rank of collegiate adviser.

At first, the main board of the RAC was in Irkutsk, but already in March 1800, by decree of Paul was transferred to the capital.

A YEAR AFTER, on the night of March 11-12, 1801, the highest patron of RAK was killed by palace guards. conspirators, either dissatisfied with his "despotism", or directed by England.

In any case, there were rumors that Olga Zherebtsova, the mistress of the English ambassador Whitworth (Whitworth), who was expelled from Russia by Paul on February 1, 1801, received 2 million gold from England for distribution to the conspirators, but appropriated them to herself. The question is, how much English gold (the action of which Napoleon directly explained the death of Pavel) was transported to the Russian capital *before* the assassination?

Among the conspirators and murderers were the Zubov brothers - Nikolai and Catherine's favorite Platon. The Russian ambassador to London, Semyon Vorontsov, was not formally included in this circle. But here is what he wrote to Whitworth, who had not yet been expelled from St. Petersburg: "I conjure you ... to inspire the young man (that is, the heir to the throne Alexander - S.K.) and the sailors that they must save the ship, which is part, as well as the cargo, belongs to a young man..."

The British had to force things because Paul, who found a common language with Napoleon Bonaparte, was already sending an expedition to British India. At the beginning of March, part of the 35,000-strong Donets detachment of the ataman of the Donskoy General Orlov's army had already set out on a campaign, and the French were to join them in Transcaucasia.

Panic arose in London, and it was further fanned by the staunch Anglophile Semyon Vorontsov, who could not stand the French "Jacobins". In St. Petersburg, his older brother, sixty-year-old Alexander, also a former ambassador to England and also a convinced Anglophile, tried his best.

Semyon Vorontsov, in 1798 and 1799, twice refused Paul's proposals to take the post, first of vice-chancellor, and then of chancellor. In the end, Pavel dismissed him and confiscated the estate. Alexander caressed him later and returned to London, but even he was forced to dismiss Vorontsov Jr. in 1806 because of his extremely Anglophile position ... After that, the count did not return to Russia (to write - "to my homeland" my hand does not rise) remained in England as a private citizen, where he died twenty-six years later at the age of 88. And to this day in London there is a street named after Vorontsov (formerly Mansfield), where he lived out his dark and worthless life ...

The fact is certainly remarkable.

Alexander Vorontsov, ideologically, did not differ from his younger brother in almost anything, and also could not stand the French in general and Bonaparte in particular.

So already the "Indian" line of Paul predetermined his fate. Not without reason already on March 12 (24), on the first On the same day of his reign, Alexander signed an emergency dispatch:

However, Paul's North American plans were clearly also the "sin" that London put him in the final "total score".

We habitually see the reasons for the elimination of Paul in his planned alliance with Bonaparte, in his tough policy towards the highest nobility, in his "folly", in trust in Alexei Andreevich Arakcheev (also, by the way, an ambiguous figure, but, like me, more and more I guess - more slandered than negative) ...

However, we do not at all take into account, as one of the reasons for the conspiracy against Paul, the emperor's interest in Russian America ...

And, perhaps, in vain! In March 1799, Pavel instructed Vorontsov to make an official presentation to the British Cabinet about the "manners of the English industrialists" on Russian American shores. The Russian ambassador was sent a special rescript and a report from Shelikhov's associate -

Baranov dated June 7 (18), 1798, which stated: *"The newcomers of the English nation are very strong in asserting their urine and rights in the neighborhood of our occupations in various images and signs, distributing everywhere, wherever they stick, medals, and, moreover, gunpowder, lead and guns to our harm is exchanged openly and generously."*

Pavel sent to London a map of Russian possessions in America (I ask the reader to remember this fact for the future!).

So the Russian emperor outlined his "American" plans quite definitely, and they were unbearable for the London friends of a resident of Mansfield Street ...

The death of Paul could seriously slow down, and even nullify the Russian sovereign movement in America.

However, it didn't slow down. And here the English blow fell into the air. Much in Russia after The death of Catherine's son changed dramatically, but not the attitude of the young Emperor Alexander towards RAC.

On the contrary, in the spring of 1802 he became a shareholder together with Empress Dowager Maria Feodorovna. The new Minister of Marine, Admiral Nikolai Semenovich Mordvinov, as well as the Minister of Commerce, the son of Count Rumyantsev-Zadunaisky, Nikolai Petrovich Rumyantsev, the founder of the Rumyantsev Museum, the future Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the State Council, also became shareholders.

The list can be continued, but it is so clear that in fact the RAC turned out to be a matter of state ... And it was the era of Alexander that became the time of the rise of the RAC and many of its glorious deeds.

The time of the death of RAC will be the era of another Alexander - the nephew of Alexander the First, Alexander the Second ...

Chapter 3

Russian-American company: the way of the first Russian "around the world" - to Fort Ross and the failed "Russian" Hawaii

LOGICALLY glorious at its beginning and absurdly inglorious at its end, the history of Russian

The American company (RAC) is poorly known in Russia and has been sparingly presented in our country since the end of the 19th century.

In recent years, even television has become interested in this topic, but only in order to mix the truth with lies.

Accordingly, in the coverage of the activities of the RAC by domestic historiography, many ambiguities remained for me even after I sorted it out in many respects ...

For example, it is completely incomprehensible to me why, with sufficient fame for the names of Shelikhov, Rezanov, or the long-term ruler of the Russian colonies in America, Alexander Andreevich Baranov, the name of their closest associate Mikhail Matveyevich Buldakov is practically hushed up. If the esteemed reader thinks that it was easy for me to figure out the significance of the figure of Mikhail Matveyevich, then he will be greatly mistaken.

I got the basic information about Buldakov from that Russian biographical dictionary, which was published in our country at the beginning of the 20th century "under the supervision of the chairman of the Imperial Russian Historical Society" Alexander Alexandrovich Polovtsev ... But Brockhaus and Efron, published in about the same years, about Buldakov as took water in his mouth...

To the strange pre-revolutionary (and post-revolutionary) "encyclopedic" coverage I will return more than once to the topic of CANCER and Russian America in due time ...

It is also incomprehensible to me why either briefly or not at all the role of RAC in organizing Russian round-the-world expeditions is mentioned, starting with the first and most famous of them - the expedition of Ivan Fedorovich Kruzenshtern and Yuri Fedorovich Lisiansky?

Students in elementary school should be aware of this. In reality, this is not always mentioned even in encyclopedic dictionaries.

Meanwhile, from 1803 to 1840, the RAC, with the assistance of the government, organized only twenty-five major sea expeditions, thirteen of which were around the world!

A solid source of information is the second Great Soviet encyclopedia, "Stalin's" ...

But what does it do then? After all, these are, in fact, all our "circumnavigation" of that time, including the expeditions of Lazarev, Kotzebue, Golovnin, Litke...

Even the Antarctic expedition of Bellingshausen and Lazarev, which had a purely scientific character, the biographies of many of its main characters turned out to be connected with the history of the RAC.

And what do we know about the three round-the-world trips of Leonty Andreyanovich Gagemeister, whose name is also firmly established in the history of the RAC, or about the campaigns of the commander of the RAC vessel, twice "around the world" Stepan Khromchenko?

Round-the-world expeditions, encouraged by the RAC, were far from pleasure voyages, and we are talking about many none of them even heard...

Yes, and the success of the "official" Amur expedition of Nevelskoy in the 50s was largely made possible thanks to subsidies and assistance from the RAC, as well as the success of other expeditions in the Amur region, to Sakhalin, the Kuriles, the Pacific islands, to Alaska!

FOR THE COMPANY, ensuring a stable maritime connection between European Russia and Russian America was a matter of the strength of its prospects. And on July 29, 1802, the Main Board of the RAC submitted to the "Most Most Serene, Most Powerful Great Sovereign Emperor and Autocrat of All Russia", that is, Alexander the First, "the most submissive report", where, in particular, he wrote:

The company reported on the wealth of American animal possessions, on plans to expand the fisheries, but complained about the lack of personnel, including "skilled naval officers", and counted on government support.

In the same note, RAC informed the tsar of her intention to "start sending now to America their transports from the port of St. Petersburg "...

And this was already an application for the first Russian round-the-world trip. Moreover, the Russian nobleman, dignitary and director of the RAC, Nikolai Petrovich Rezanov, had an understanding of the national significance of such a case.

For their part, the naval officers Kruzenshtern and Lisiansky also had not only vague dreams on this score, but ready-made plans, notes, arguments ... Lieutenant Commander "Kruzenshtern" was also mentioned in the report of the RAC to the Tsar ...

So, the wall of doubts and mistrust broke through from two sides. It was Nikolai Rezanov and Mikhail Buldakov who played a really decisive role in initiating the voyage of Krusenstern in 1803. But the notes of the sailors, the future leaders of the expedition, also had their value.

Buldakov accepted half of the expenses for the maintenance of Lisiansky's Neva (maintenance Kruzenshtern's "Hope" was taken over by Alexander himself).

Ivan Fedorovich Kruzenshtern was the youngest pupil of the Catherine's era, he distinguished himself in the Gogland, Eland, Revel and Vyborg battles of the Russian-Swedish war of 1788-1790. Among the best young sailors was sent by Catherine for an internship in the English fleet, fought there too, cruised off the Atlantic coast of North America, visited Barbados and Bermuda and sailed on

a lot of seas and oceans.

It was destined for him to become a commander in the first Russian circumnavigation... Let me remind you that he began his military service in 1788 on the Mstislav ship under the command of Captain Mulovsky, who was appointed to circumnavigate the world, which was postponed due to the Russian-Swedish war.

Conversations with Mulovsky gave the first impulse. The second was the acquaintance with the grandson of Vitus Bering - Lieutenant Yakov Bering, also sent to the "English" internship.

The third was conversations with the "Liflander" Torkler in Calcutta. Finn knew the northwestern coast of America well and believed that it was very profitable for Russia to deliver goods there and send furs from there - to China, to Canton.

Kruzenshtern returned to his homeland in 1799 on a ship of the East India Company, rounding the Cape of Good Hope. And he immediately presented to the naval authorities a project for circumnavigating the world, one of the goals of which was "supplying our American colonies with everything necessary."

Jules Verne, who wrote in great detail about Ivan Fedorovich in his "History of Great Journeys", wittily, although not quite right in terms of Kruzenshtern's sole priority, notes: "The best ideas are always the simplest, but they come to mind last. Kruzenshtern was the first to prove the urgent need to establish a direct connection between the Aleutian Islands - the place of fur fishing - and Canton - the most important market.

In fact, Kruzenshtern's note touched on many things - it even criticized serfdom. But, I apologize for the pun, everything there "spun" around the circumnavigation.

The fleet was then in decline (recall the story of the Decembrist Steingel). The project of a thirty-year-old lieutenant aroused sympathy among the admirals with its purely naval part, but it was scary ... They sighed that, they say, it would be nice, and you can find officers, but Russian sailors are completely incapable of long-distance navigation. "It would be better to hire the British," advised the aged Admiral Khanykov.

The appearance of the Russian-American Company in Russia moved things off the ground...

Of great importance was the nominal decree of Emperor Alexander of April 1802, according to which "It was allowed for naval officers who wished, without leaving the naval service, to join the Russian American Company." This decree opened up broad prospects for Kruzenshtern, and for Lisiansky, and for dozens of other active Russian military sailors.

Apparently, the final "project of navigation before presenting it to the tsar was discussed between Buldakov, Rezanov, Count Rumyantsev, Admiral Mordvinov, Lisiansky and Kruzenshtern. On the part of departments, the idea was supported by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Commerce, the Navy and the Academy of Sciences.

On behalf of the RAC, Lieutenant Commander Lisiansky went to London and bought the Leander sloops there, renamed "Hope", and "Thames", named "Neva". Then he brought them to Kronstadt.

By the way, only in the middle of a long voyage it became clear that the sloops were not of new construction, as the English merchants assured Lisiansky, but with a large rot, especially in the masts. Now it remains only to guess what was the reason for the deception - in the desire of the British to make extra money or in their intention to disrupt the first Russian circumnavigation, and even with a call to Russian America. However, the English Ship Chamber at one time did not even hesitate to slip Cook

"Resolution" with rotten ropes and rotten masts!

Again the question arose about the teams ... "I was advised," Kruzenshtern later wrote, "to accept several foreign sailors, but I, knowing the predominant properties of Russian ones, whom I even prefer to English, did not agree to follow this advice."

And again began the debate and "friction" ...

Petersburg was excited about the upcoming unprecedented campaign.

Nikolai Mikhailovich Karamzin wrote in June 1803: "Anglomans and Gallomaniacs who wish to be called cosmopolitans think that Russians should trade locally. Peter thought differently - he was Russian and a patriot at heart. We are standing on the ground, and on the Russian land ... We need both the development of the fleet and industry, enterprise and daring.

This was a direct polemic with the already known to the reader Angloman Vorontsov of St. Petersburg, who spoiled Russia no worse than the "Englishwoman" herself, was against a round-the-world campaign and stated: "For many reasons, physical and local Russia cannot be among the leading maritime powers. Yes, neither need nor benefit is foreseen ... "

It turned out, fortunately, not according to him ... June 27 (August 7), 1803 "Nadezhda" and "Neva" began to choose

anchors, and soon the chief commander of the Kronstadt port - just, ironically, Admiral Khanykov - reported in writing to Vice Admiral Chichagov, Comrade of the Minister of Marine: *"Dear Sir Pavel Vasilyevich! The ships of the Russian-American company "Nadezhda" and "Neva" this day at 10 o'clock weighed anchor and set off safely from the Kronstadt roadstead to the sea ... "*

In Copenhagen, Kruzenshtern took on board the members of the scientific staff - the German astronomer Horner, botanist Tilesius (Thiresius) von Tilenau and MD Langsdorf.

In November, the expedition's sloops crossed the equator for the first time in the history of the Russian fleet, and on February 19 (Russian style) in 1804 rounded Cape Horn.

The sailors in the crews of the ships were only Russians.

Sailed to Alaska and hieromonk Gideon, appointed by the Synod for the "conversion of newly baptized Christians in Russian-American institutions." Orlovets, the son of a priest, he was excellently educated, taught French, rhetoric, mathematics and geometry in seminaries, was well-versed in physics and geography. He was to take charge of the Kodiak school for the Aleuts and form the right school...

IN JUNE 1804, the sloops approached the Sandwich (Hawaiian) Islands. "Nadezhda" immediately went further - to Kamchatka, and "Neva" separated from it in order to show the Russian flag on Sandwiches for the first time and get to know them. Then she went to Kodiak and stayed in Russian America for a year.

Lisiansky did a lot of research, surveying the coast. Only on leather Aleutian he personally traveled 400 versts in a canoe.

Only in the second half of the summer of 1805 did Lisiansky leave Novo-Arkhangelsk, heading for the southern Chinese port of Canton (Guangzhou). Since 1757, this was the only Chinese port open to foreign trade, and the expedition had, among others, the task of establishing maritime trade with China in addition to the land trade that we conducted with the Chinese through the border East Siberian Kyakhta in Transbaikalia.

Kruzenshtern's Nadezhda was heading to Canton from the Petropavlovsk harbor in Kamchatka. She I managed to go there once, then go to Nagasaki with Rezanov and return from Japan to Kamchatka.

By the way, in Kamchatka, Kruzenshtern left part of the ship's guns needed there to repel the beginning raids of American gangs. The Yankees liked the Russian activity in the Pacific less and less, and they began to behave more and more impudently and lawlessly.

In November 1805, both ships arrived in Canton ... The Nadezhda traveled from Kamchatka to Canton for forty days, and the Neva from Novo-Arkhangelsk (Sitka) took much longer. Having left Sitka on June 21 in the Russian style, according to the report of the chief commissioner of the Russian round-the-world expedition, RAC clerk Fyodor Ivanovich Shemelin, she came to the Canton raid only on November 22.

And about this delay, I must say especially, which I will do, directly giving the floor to Shemelin, who on December 21, 1805 (January 2, 1806) reported to the RAC Headquarters from Canton:

The Neva, having on board 4004 skins of sea beavers, was indeed late in Canton and three American ships arrived there before it. Captain Adams brought 5,800 beavers, Captain Treket 2,800, and Captain Starzhel 5,202, the latter selling everything for 18 piastres a skin.

Nadezhda brought 414 beavers and 10,000 seals from Kamchatka.

Fedor Shemelin reasonably concluded:

Yes, merchants - merchants, and the tsar - tsar ... Russian America urgently needed a direct

government attention.

But we note to ourselves that already at the first arrival of the Russians in Canton it was possible to understand, firstly, that the Russians had a decent head start over the Yankees in terms of time, if they were agile. Secondly, it was clear that the Yankees use the wealth of the northern waters of the Pacific Ocean more than the owners of these waters themselves - Russians.

It is unlikely that such a state of affairs could be considered normal. But it was hardly possible to rectify it with the efforts of the RAC alone - the power had to declare its exclusive rights to these waters ... And this became one of the most important promising Russian state tasks in the Pacific region.

An interesting situation was also revealed in coastal South China ...

Canton grew up on one of the branches of the Pearl River Delta (Pearl River). Its leading point there was a port-suburb of Wampu (Huangpu), separated from Canton by 15 Italian miles seaward.

At Canton, the three largest rivers of South China merge together - Xijiang ("Western River"), Beijiang ("Northern River") and Dongjiang ("Eastern River").

These rivers flow into the narrow seventy-kilometer Canton Bay of the South China Sea, on the western coast of which, at the exit to the open sea, the Portuguese colony of Macau was formed in 1557. The Portuguese rented this territory from China for their trading post.

Fifty-six kilometers from Macau - across the bay, on its eastern shore, from 1839, British Hong Kong will appear on the site of the Chinese Hong Kong - as a result of England's victory in the first "opium" war. But at the time of the first Russian circumnavigation, this was still far away. Although the British in China were even then more active than the Portuguese.

This very international "triangle" could be internationalized even more if Russia had penetrated here. The Portuguese were not particularly worth considering, and the British had to be neutralized by a Russian agreement with the Chinese and renting territory for **their** trading post.

This was a complicated matter, but, perhaps, possible, although not at the time of Kruzenshtern and Lisiansky, but, say, ten years later or later - when the British began to press China and British Hong Kong appeared on the map of China.

As for our first circumnavigators, they had to endure very unpleasant experiences in Canton. days...

Nadezhda was the first to reach the Canton Bay in the Macau region, and the question immediately arose before Kruzenshtern: what to do next? Go straight to Canton or Whampoa? Commercial cargo is small, and all possible profits will be eaten by duties and "gifts" to Chinese mandarins. Stand in Macau, waiting for the "Neva"? But in the roadstead of Macao, a merchant ship had the right to stay, according to Chinese laws, only for a day, and then it was necessary either to pass to Whampoa, or to go anywhere.

And Kruzenshtern announced to the Chinese authorities in Macau his ship as a military one.

Half a month later, Lisiansky came, and he went straight to Wampa, but "Nadezhda" followed she could no longer go there - the passage of military courts was strictly prohibited and under a "great fine".

Bidding began, but, having bargained at the beginning of January 1806, our ships did not immediately leave could. They were detained by the Cantonese governor...

He reported to Beijing that a merchant Russian ship arrived in Macau with merchants Lu-Chyn-Dun (Kruzenshtern) and Ni-Tszan-shih (Lisiansky) and conducts illegal de bargaining with Chinese merchants.

The Chinese considered it legal to trade with the Russians only in Kyakhta - in accordance with the Kyakhta treatise of October 21, 1727. And the Chinese Tribunal (Chinese "Ministry of Foreign Affairs") on January 16 (28), 1806, asked the Russian Governing Senate whether Lu-Chyn-Tung and Ni-Tszan shi arrived in Canton with the knowledge of the Senate or was it their unauthorized initiative.

The loading of purchased Chinese goods was suspended, guards were assigned to the ships. The case threatened to drag on for a long time ... Correspondence of two Russian captains with the Canton authorities began. It all ended with the fact that on February 9, 1806, the ships were released and soon went to sea.

The news did not go quickly then, and on June 22 (July 4), 1806, the leading director of the RAC Buldakov and the directors Delarov and Shelekhov (brother of Grigory Shelikhov-Shelekhov) most submissively reported to Alexander only about the receipt of a report from Kruzenshtern and Shemelin dated December 1805, which announced the arrival RAC ships to Canton and a sale of merchandise worth 176,605 1/4 piastres...

"Nadezhda" and "Neva" were at that time already on the way to Kronstadt, but - separately. In mid-April 1806, at the Cape of Good Hope, the ships lost sight of each other in the fog and moved on.
on one's own.

In fact, the island of St. Helena was appointed as the place of rendezvous, but, having arrived there earlier, Kruzenshtern learned about the beginning of the war between Russia and France and did not dare to go without part of the guns left to protect Kamchatka, across the English Channel, where he could run into French patrols. He sailed around the English Isles north and lingered a little.

The Neva went straight and on July 22 (August 2), 1806, anchored in the Kronstadt roadstead.

Two weeks later, Nadezhda also stood next to her ...

It is believed that the head of the 1st Russian round-the-world expedition was Kruzenshtern alone. But on board the "Nadezhda" sailed to the Far East and the "correspondent of the RAC" (that is, its representative to the government), one of the managing directors of the RAC, a well-known chamberlain and civilian adviser Rezanov.

He was appointed not only head of the emergency embassy with the task of "establishing trade relations with Japan", but in fact - the second head of navigation. If not the first, because he had instructions that allowed him to interfere in Krusenstern's actions. The latter, of course, had no such rights in relation to Rezanov.

In addition, Rezanov received an order from Alexander to "survey and arrange" our possessions in North America, that is, in modern terms, to inspect RAC facilities.

In an article about Rezanov - by the way, very restrained - "Brockhaus and Efron" directly states: "According to his idea, the first Russian round-the-world expedition was equipped." Although it would be more accurate to say that the honor of the initiative belongs to Rezanov together with Kruzenshtern, Buldakov and those who still conceived the failed expedition of Mulovsky ...

Regarding the distribution of roles in the first Russian round-the-world tour that took place, the same source reports: "He (Rezanov. - S.K.) was appointed its chief boss. His assistants were Kruzenshtern and Lisiansky ... "

And this is so, because in the decree of Alexander Rezanov, which began with the words: "Having chosen you for a feat, promising the benefit of the Fatherland ...", it was said: "By this, both ships with officers and servants are entrusted to your superiors."

It is unlikely that Alexander's decision was reasonable - disputes and disagreements arose between Kruzenshtern and Rezanov (which, by the way, he deepened with his drunken antics in relation to

Rezanov, the gentleman of the embassy, Fyodor Tolstoy, is the same Pushkin-Griboyedov "American", "he was exiled to Kamchatka, returned as an Aleut, and is very unclean"), And this led to a split already among members of the expedition.

Nevertheless, the fact that the supreme power has special confidence in Rezanov, one of the leaders of the RAC, is a fact. He transferred his powers to Kruzenshtern only in June 1805, when he began to carry out the tasks of establishing the management of Russian America.

Rezanov's ideas had a Lomonosov-Shelikhov scope. He proposed occupying the entire coast of Northwest America up to San Francisco Bay, creating a strong naval squadron, in alliance with Spain, preventing US expansion and laying the foundation for Russia's political and commercial power in this part of the Pacific.

The establishment of direct and friendly relations with Japan here would be very important and useful.

HOWEVER, Rezanov's Japanese embassy failed.

The Land of the Rising Sun then very severely limited any contacts with the outside world, and this regime lasted for more than one century. I will tell you in detail about the self-isolation of Japan in due time, but now we need to know that Rezanov's task was more than difficult, but in principle it was doable.

Here's how it all unfolded...

Even before the departure of Kruzenshtern's expedition, Minister of Commerce Rumyantsev gave the Tsar 20 February 1803 memorandum "On bargaining with Japan", where he wrote:

"It is known that since the time of the terrible persecution of Christians in Japan and the expulsion of the Portuguese from it, only the Batavians (Dutch. - S.K.) have for about two hundred years in their hands this trade that is so beneficial for them. Nature itself, placing Russia adjacent to Japan and bringing both empires closer by sea, gives us an advantage over all trading powers and convenience in trade, for which our merchants, it seems, only expect a single approval from the government ...

Considering the local benefits of our trade with Japan, I find that it would be extremely useful for us to produce it with fish and furs that are very consumable by the Japanese, which we have in great abundance, not only in America, but also on the Kuril Islands and within the Sea of Okhotsk mined, skins made from various sea and earthen animals, various soft junk, walrus and mammoth ivory, cloth, and, moreover, having experienced the importation into Japan of various luxury goods, such as mirrors and the like, to receive millet from them in exchange, not only for American villages, but also for the entire Northern Territory of Siberia, necessary, bayonet copper, known for its goodness in the whole world, various silk and paper fabrics, silver, lacquer and many other things ... "

Having stated all this, Rumyantsev suggested:

"On this subject, would it not be pleasing to Your Imperial Majesty, with the ships now leaving for America, to assign a certain family to the Japanese court of the embassy and, using for the execution of this important enterprise a person with abilities and knowledge of political and commercial affairs and encouraging him with Your Imperial Majesty's special patronage, instruct him to make to the Japanese court a decently correct suggestion about the dignity of the Russian Empire, to lay there a solid foundation for trade and to establish friendly relations between the two empires for the future ... "

A month later, on March 27, Rumyantsev submitted to the tsar a new "most subservient" report, where, along with outlining the problems of Russian America, he again writes about the idea of an embassy to Japan.

And on June 30 (July 12), 1803, Alexander signs the letter *"By God's hastening mercy to his Tenzin-kubo majesty, the most autocratic sovereign of the vast empire of Japan, the most excellent emperor and sovereign ..."*.

After a ponderous introduction, it was reported that *"having chosen, in the genus of a worthy loyal subject, the actual chamberlain of my court, Nikolai Rezanov, so that with due respect he could approach your autocratic person, I wish him to submit this letter to Your Tenzin-Kubo Majesty according to the proper rite with the true respect..."*.

Specifically, Alexander proposed to "His Tenzin-Kubo Majesty" to *"allow my merchant people, and even more so the inhabitants of the Kodiak, Aleutian and Kuril Islands, as if neighboring to you"*, to pester *"not only the Nagasaki harbor and not only one ship* (formally, such permission was given back at the end of the 18th century, which I will talk about a little later. - S.K.), *but also to many and to other harbors with those excesses that will be favorable to you.*

The end of this message is also interesting: *"I am sending as a gift to Your Tenzin-Kubo Majesty a clock embedded in the figure of a mechanical elephant, mirrors, fox fur, vases of bone work, guns, pistols and steel and glass products. All these things are made in my manufactories. Although they are worth a small price, I wish that they were only pleasant for you and that something pleasing to you be found within the borders of my state.*

And on July 10 (22), 1803, Alexander personally approved Rumyantsev's instruction for Rezanov from 23 points. This was a general instruction for the entire expedition, but there were also points concerning Japan, drawn up in the spirit of Rumyantsev's thoughts.

In August, "Nadezhda" and "Neva" went to sea, in view of the Sandwiches parted, Kruzenshtern with Rezanov went to Kamchatka, and from there to Japan.

Arriving in Nagasaki on September 26 (Russian style), 1804, Nadezhda was met there with extreme precautions. At 10 pm, Banios officials arrived on the ship. They went into the wardroom without invitation, sat down without invitation, and lit their pipes without invitation.

However, they immediately took them out of their mouths - from amazement at the fact that on the way from Kamchatka to Nagasaki the Russians spent only a month.

Together with the Japanese there were also the Dutch - outwardly loyal to the Russians, but hardly pleased with their appearance ...

Japan at that time was in a state of deaf self-isolation, which lasted more than one century. I repeat, enough will be said about the reasons for this and about this regime itself in due time. But - is it so, otherwise, foreign Europeans there then not only were not favored, but were not accepted at all. The last Christians, the Portuguese, were expelled from the Japanese islands in 1638. And since then, entering Japan has threatened Europeans with death. An exception was made only for the Dutch.

And now on the head not only to the sons of the Land of the Rising Sun, but also to the sons of distant Batavia the sons of the Russian North fell.

After the first contact, the Japanese forbade Rezanov to communicate with the Dutch, but I suspect that they did not grieve about it - it was easier to have a decent appearance with a cunning game. Moreover, I do not rule out that the subsequent development of events was inspired by the Dutch, among whom there could very well be (or rather, they could not have been) English agents.

The next day, the Governor of Nagasaki sent gifts of poultry, rice, and fresh fish, but requested all gunpowder and firearms the same day. The swords of the officers, however, were left,

which even the Dutch were not allowed to.

In general, the regime was established similar to captivity - the Nadezhda towed into the depths of the bay was guarded by 32 patrol vessels. True, the parking lot was sometimes allowed to change. There was also communication with the shore - the Japanese allocated a fenced area of bare land 100 by 40 steps for Rezanov's walks. From its high fence, from the side of the boat, during the changes in the parking lot, Kruzenshtern observed tidal phenomena and surveyed the shores of the bay, which, in the end, gave a good description of it. Kruzenshtern was the first to accurately determine the latitude and longitude of Nagasaki ... Of course, the Dutch also did this before him. But the Russians for the first time made their data the common property of all the sailors of the world.

Only on December 17, Rezanov was settled in the town of Megesaki in a house fortified like a fortress, and guarded like a prison.

Two months later, on February 19, Russian style, 1805, the ambassador was informed that the Japanese the emperor sends his "commissar" to him.

A month later, it became known that Emperor Rezanov would not honor an audience, and on the morning of March 20, his envoy finally arrived from the capital. Negotiations began on March 23 (April 3), 1805, and ended quickly. The Russian ambassador was informed that the emperor of Japan did not accept any gifts from the Russian emperor, nor his message on the grounds that "in this case," as Rezanov reported, "the Japanese emperor should have made mutual gifts to the Russian emperor, which should have been send to St. Petersburg with an express embassy. But this is impossible, because the state

laws forbid a Japanese to leave his fatherland.

At the same time, letters were presented prohibiting Russian ships from ever pestering coast of Japan.

April 18 "Nadezhda" left these shores and went to sea ...

And I'll also say a few words here ... Taking into account all subsequent, after many decades and even centuries, the territorial claims of the Japanese, one can, after all, recall once again this official response from Japan. And remembering, notice to yourself that at a time when Russians their state laws did not forbade leaving their homeland and Russian sailors along and across proceeded the northern part of the Pacific Ocean and put on the maps almost all of its islands, including the Kuril Islands and Sakhalin Island, the Japanese - at least officially - did not dare to show their noses from Japan.

So who had legal rights to all the open islands?

Japan continued to be in self-isolation. But it couldn't go on forever. In 1845, the Yankees made an attempt to establish ties with Japan, but Commodore Biddle also left without success after 10 days. True, then Japan is not for the Americans. was very needed - the United States did not neighbor Japan, their activity in the Pacific Ocean was still ahead.

And half a century after Rezanov, the "era of Commodore Perry" began for Japan. This American "revealed" the stubborn country that was still fenced off from the West under the guns of his squadron.

The only tangible result of Rezanov's embassy was a drafted failed ambassador of the Japanese Dictionary...

According to a longtime source, Rezanov then drove the Japanese from Sakhalin, who were there according to the laws It seemed that there should not have been Japan, and he subordinated the island to the Russian state. Well, Saha

Lina "Hope" spent the entire middle of the summer of 1805, and the time for "showdowns" at Nikolai Petrovich was. Yes, and a reason - too ...

HOWEVER, the main (and very abrupt) efforts on Sakhalin fell in 1806 on the share of two dashing lieutenants - thirty-year-old Nikolai Khvostov and twenty-two-year-old Gavriil Davydov.

These guys, alas, did not live long, but they deserve a good memory of themselves, because they lived together and, it seems, cheerfully, remembering that they are Russians. I'll tell you a little about them...

Khvostov was older and managed to fight the Swedes as a midshipman in 1790. Davydov, on the other hand, began to sail as a midshipman - on the same ship as Khvostov - from the age of twelve (!) years. Then, no doubt, they became friends and were inseparable from each other until their very death hour.

In 1802, they enter the service of the RAC and through Siberia get to Okhotsk, from where they first go to Russian America, to Kodiak Island, and back on the companion schooner "Saint Elizabeth". In 1805, Khvostov commanded the already companionable "Saint Mary", and since 1806 - the ship "Juno" ...

Davydov is not next to him on the deck of the Juno, but he is right there side by side, because now commands the Avos tender.

And here, on the direct instructions of Rezanov, they go to the shores of South Sakhalin. In October 1806 year "fleet lieutenant" Khvostov signs the following letter:

"In sign of the acceptance of Sakhalin Island and its inhabitants under the most merciful patronage of the Russian Emperor Alexander I, the foreman of the village, lying on the eastern side of the Aniva Bay, was awarded a silver medal on the Vladimir ribbon. Any other incoming vessel, both Russian and foreign, we ask the foreman to recognize this as a Russian citizen."

At the same time, the lieutenants burn warehouses illegally placed there by the Japanese in Aniva Bay. premises. The buildings were made of fresh boards - it is clear that the Japanese were somehow in a hurry to these lands

"staking", although the settlers themselves, judging by some reports, were fugitive criminals.

In any case, they could not be official state settlers - after all, officially the Japanese were forbidden to leave Japan! And for this reason, by the way, any statements about the supposedly "illegality" of the actions of the two lieutenants are absolutely unjustified.

In 1807 they repeat this "trick" in the southern Kuriles...

Well done!

But by that time Rezanov was no longer in Siberia, nor alive, and upon returning to Okhotsk lieutenants are taken into custody.

N-yes...

The active Russian people were lucky in the Far East, beyond the high bank of the Amur ... For their own good - and even on the scruff of their neck! Nikolai Alexandrovich Khvostov and Gavriil Ivanovich Davydov in this sense anticipated the situation with Gennady Ivanovich Nevelsky.

However, the lieutenants, apparently, were really risky guys. They flee from arrest to Yakutsk, there they "surrender", and from there they are taken to St. Petersburg, where they are put on trial, but soon released and sent to Finland for a new Russian-Swedish war.

Russian America, of course, would have called them again and they could still have been heroic there for the glory of the Russian cause, but on October 14, 1809, both drowned in the Neva, in a hurry to jump over the already bred bridge.

Fate...

After their death, "Two-time trip to America by naval officers Khvostov and

Davydov, written by him last. With Shishkov's forewarning, 1810.

Admiral Alexander Semenovitch Shishkov has a reputation as an ideologue of the most reactionary sections of the nobility, and, probably, not in vain. But he was a Russian by nature, he loved Russian to the point of overlap, and he knew Khvostov and Davydov as subordinates from the Swedish war at the end of the 18th century, on which he was the commander of a frigate.

And in his preface to Davydov's book, he wrote that "Khvostov combined in his soul two opposites: the meekness of a lamb and the ardor of a lion," and Davydov "is hotter and hotter in temperament than Khvostov, but inferior to him in firmness and courage."

They just stand before my eyes - the Russian guys are inseparable, who would not be at a loss either on the ice of Lake Peipus, or on the Borodino field, or near Moscow in the autumn of 1941, or in the current muddy years...

Russians for all time...

And NOW back to Rezanov. On the Nadezhda, he moved from Nagasaki to Petropavlovsk, and then "Hope" went to China, where at the end of November 1805 Kruzenshtern joined Lisiansky.

Rezanov, on the contrary, separated from Kruzenshtern in Kamchatka in order to go to the Russian America on the company ship "Saint Mary".

There were 23 points in the instruction to Rezanov, of which I will partially cite points 8 and 9 here ...

Point 8 stated:

Alas, in the course of my story, the reader will be convinced that Rumyantsev and Alexander were cruelly and fatally mistaken! In the future, "all sorts of troubles" rained down on us in abundance, and they came precisely from the "allied us" Anglo-Saxon maritime powers.

In paragraph 9, it was stated:

It was from these reserves that the foreman of the Sakhalin Ainu was later granted a silver medal on the Vladimir ribbon.

On the "St. Mary" Rezanov delivered to the capital of Russian America, recently founded by Baranov Novo-Arkhangelsk not only medals, but also supplies.

And in the spring of 1806, he left for a visit to the Spanish San Francisco ...

Rezanov was well versed in the state of California affairs and, thinking sensibly and far-sightedly, wanted to prepare the organization of an agricultural base for the RAC there (later his idea was realized with the founding of Fort Ross in Upper California).

Four years earlier, Rezanov had been widowed, and now he fell in love again - the daughter of the commandant of the Spanish fortress of San Francisco, Maria de la Concepción d'Argüello.

And he was engaged to her.

Both personal and political prospects pleased, however, forced to urgently leave for St. Petersburg, on the way back to the Russian capital, he fell ill and died on March 1, 1807 in Krasnoyarsk.

Well, Bret Hart and Andrei Voznesensky wrote about it, they sang about it at the Lenkom Theater, and we, After a moment's silence over the grave of yet another great love, let's continue our "history with geography"...

But GENERALLY something else should be said about the unexpected death of Nikolai Petrovich Rezanov, remembering the "unexpected" death of his father-in-law Shelikhov, and the death of Paul the First.

Rezanov's departure from the arena of events into non-existence, of course, affected the long-term prospects of Russian America in the most negative way. And his death was so opportune for *some people* and so beneficial to quite certain world circles that, willy-nilly, you wonder - was it also accidental?

His brother-in-law Mikhail Buldakov showed himself to be a talented merchant and administrator, but by no means a statesman. He was personally familiar to the emperor, but there was no serious state influence had.

The outstanding ruler of the Russian American colonies, Alexander Andreevich Baranov, was both a merchant, an administrator, and a far-sighted, in modern terms, geopolitician. But Baranov was far from both Petersburg and the throne.

The State Councilor Rezanov is another matter... It was he who could become a generator of practical concepts oriented both to the top in the capital and to the practical implementers of these concepts in the Pacific zone. ocean.

He was, in fact, he was.

Rezanov was able, relying on the experience and energy of like-minded people like Buldakov and Baranov, to move the emperor to large-scale practical actions in Russian America and in the Pacific Ocean in general. Moreover, then Alexander had enthusiasm in this regard.

And if necessary, Rezanov could diplomatically fend off external threats to the new Russian case. Rezanov was gone, and the broad geopolitical plan died out.

And was it random? I ask myself and the reader again.

There are in the history of the initial Russian-Japanese relations, and two more than interesting fates, which also ended in such strange deaths that the analysis of these fates almost dot all the "i" and "e" ...

This is the life and death of the father and son of the Laxmans ...

Eric (in Russian letters he signed Kirill) Laxman was born on July 27, 1737 in Finland, in Neishlot, he graduated from the gymnasium in Borgo, but could not finish the university course in Abo due to poverty. At the age of 25, he moved to St. Petersburg and from that time connected his fate with his new homeland. At first he taught natural science and physics, then he got a pastor's job in Barnaul. But everywhere he, being a diligent and observant person, was engaged in scientific research. At the age of thirty-three he was elected an academician "in economics and chemistry." He traveled a lot around Russia and spent almost the entire year of 1772 in the south, transmuting copper cannons captured from the Turks into small coins. At the age of forty-three, Laxman-father received a position as Chief Jägermeister at the Nerchinsk mines and permanently moved to Siberia, visiting the capital only on short visits.

Soon he settles more freely, taking an "office" position in mineralogy. In addition, he received a pension from the Academy.

Kirill Gustavovich was a really serious scientist, albeit not an outstanding one. His class is confirmed by the fact that there is an article about him in the Great Soviet Encyclopedia.

In the mid-1980s, he intended to conduct research in the Sea of Okhotsk and even planned to visit the American coast. Laxman was familiar with Shelikhov, so everything was natural here. He also asked to join the Billings expedition, but his request was rejected (possibly due to cold relations with Pallas, who ideologically patronized the expedition and was in scientific "contradictions" with Laxman about the origin of Baikal - which, I must say, was right on the side of the Finnish Siberian).

In 1791, the Japanese Kodai was wrecked off the Russian coast and, together with his companion, was brought to Irkutsk. Before they were sent to St. Petersburg (where they were very kindly treated), Laksman met them, accompanied them to the capital, and there he suggested that the government take advantage of the opportunity to send the victims home and establish relations with Japan.

The proposal was accepted, and its author was entrusted with the development of instructions for the expedition. And Eric's second son, Captain Adam Erikovich Laxman, was ordered to go with the Japanese on this unprecedented trip.

Adam was born in Barnaul in 1766, graduated from the Land Cadet Corps and from 1786 was a police officer in Gizhiginsk, located on the northern coast of the Sea of Okhotsk in the area of the Gizhiginskaya Bay.

Adam was, as I understood, quite the son of his father, that is, modest, but with a sense of his own dignity, educated, methodical, diligent, prone to observations (which his father was also strong as a scientist), moderate ...

On May 20, 1792, Laxman-son, on the instructions of the Irkutsk governor-general, left for Okhotsk, and 1 In August, my father arrived there with the Japanese.

September 13 (old style), on the anniversary of the signing of the decree on the "Japanese" expedition by Catherine, on the galliot "St. Catherine" under the command of navigator Grigory Lovtsov, Adam went to sea with a crew of 20 sailors and 4 soldiers, with an interpreter, draftsman, volunteer - son Okhotsk commandant Koch, with several merchants and, of course, with both Japanese.

In fact, the embassy was a political act, but formally its main goal was declared commercial purpose - the establishment of trade relations.

Laksman-son was carrying letters to Japan from the Irkutsk Governor-General, gifts from his own name and gifts from his father to three Japanese scientists.

By the way, the embassy of Adam Laxman later turned out to be so forgotten that even in Vasily Mikhailovich Pasetsky's thorough monograph "Ivan Fedorovich Kruzenshtern", published by the Nauka publishing house in 1974 under the editorship of Academician Okladnikov, it is said about the "expedition of Academician K.G. Laxman". The son was confused with the father ...

October 9 "Ekaterina" entered the harbor of Nemuro on the northern coast of the island of Hokkaido. And stuck there for nine months. During this time, as they say, you can give birth, and the Japanese have been "giving birth" all this time Russian envoy.

The embassy lacked nothing, but the negotiations were frustratingly slow. Only on April 29, 1793, a Japanese embassy of two hundred (!) People arrived in Nemuro with a response from the emperor. It was proposed to Laxman, accompanied by all this crowd, to deliver two of his wards to the southernmost port of Hokkaido - Matsumae, and on a Japanese ship.

The following proves that Adam the son of Eric-Cyril was brilliant, that is, infinitely patient, but also rigidly uncompromising, diplomat.

He stated that one way or another he would have gone by sea to Hakodate, a port a hundred kilometers northwest of Matsumae. And on July 4 he went by sea on an embassy ship.

In Hakodate, the authorities also received him extremely kindly, but completely isolated him from any contact with the inhabitants. The cortege was now almost half a thousand people, and on July 13 they all moved to Matsumae by land.

Laxman and her two sons returned to Japan were carried in rich palanquins. And they arrived at Matsumae July 17, 1793.

Negotiations began on the presentation ceremony, generously flavored with reproaches for the fact that the Russians appeared, contrary to the laws of the country, in a port where foreigners were not allowed to enter. Officially, it was proposed to introduce yourself barefoot and speak while lying on your stomach, but not to the emperor - and hear about it didn't want to.

Laxman, I believe, both joked and scolded, but did everything in such a way that he inspired sympathy, and when two decades later lieutenant commander Vasily Golovnin turned up in Hokkaido (his story deserves separate lines), Laxman was remembered vividly and friendly.

As a result, he obtained permission for one Russian ship to moor once a year in the port of Nagasaki. As the reader later becomes more familiar with Japanese history, he will realize that Adam's success was virtually unbelievable.

Prior to this, only the Dutch had enjoyed such a privilege in Japan for almost two centuries!

The significance of what Laxman-son did was also confirmed by the fact that the TSB has an article about him, where he is directly called "the head of the first Russian embassy to Japan."

But in one of the books of the newest academic five-volume "History of Russia's foreign policy (end of the 15th century - 1917)" - in the one that covers the first half of the 19th century and was published in 1995 by the publishing house "International Relations", Laxman's embassy is assessed as fruitless.

Well, here it remains only to shrug ...

Returning to Hakodate, Adam went to sea on August 11. And then I will directly quote his biographer late 19th century:

Yes, my dear reader, it began for health, but ended in the truest sense of the word - for peace.

Yes, and - not one soul ...

It turned out like this ... In May 1794, the son returned to Irkutsk. Father sends a message to the count Bezborodko, and he introduces him to Catherine.

Father and son, together with the natural history collection that the son managed to collect in Japan, leave with a report to the capital.

There, all members of the expedition were thanked, Adam received the captain's rank, Eric was promoted to collegiate adviser and awarded Vladimir 4th degree.

One annual merchant ship to Japan was claimed by Laxman's friend Shelikhov, and in view of his enormous and well-known merits in the development of trade on the Great Ocean, this desire was considered fair. However, the final decision was slowed down by something (or rather, of course, by someone).

Laxman missed his "Siberian Alps", but in general he did not miss, maintaining extensive correspondence with by their scientists Western European correspondents.

The decision stuck...

I don't think that it was someone's greed - you won't get super profits on one ship. But for Shelikhov it was a matter

honor and his entire previous life, and from the state point of view, he was, of course, the best candidate for opening trade with the Japanese. Actually, with the Laxman embassy, it was to him (and also

one merchant - Rokhletsov, a direct participant in the expedition) was instructed "for experiments" to send to Japan "a certain number of goods in cloth, paper, junk and glass utensils "...

Everything seemed clear, but...

The new expedition was decided only in May 1795, so that Eric Laxman took over the scientific part, and Grigory Shelikhov took over the trade part ... Irkutsk Governor-General Ivan Osipovich Selifontov was given a corresponding rescript on sending a second expedition to Japan.

Everything seemed to be going great!

And then I will again resort to a direct quote from Eric's biographer: *"But the expedition did not take place. Shelikhov died suddenly in Irkutsk on July 20, 1795; Laxman in the summer of 1795 left St. Petersburg for Moscow, from here by sleigh to Siberia. On January 5, 1796, Laksman died quite unexpectedly: during the journey with him, an apoplexy occurred in the wagon; when the carriage arrived at Dresvyanskaya station, 119 versts from Tobolsk, the rider did not leave it, and when they looked into the carriage, Laksman was already in agony. The burial place of Laxman has not yet been determined! ... "*

N-yes...

A collegiate adviser is, after all, the rank of colonel. It was winter, to take to Tobolsk the deceased could have been quite ... But for some reason the scientist was buried hastily and unknown.

In order for the reader to better understand that Erik Gustavovich Laxman is an exceptionally attractive, spiritually healthy and significant person, I will quote once again his biographer: *" Search and find - that was his passion ... He experienced and accomplished so much, embarked on such new paths , tore the veil from so many objects and truths in nature, enriched museums and collections with such valuable contributions, gave with such readiness a helping hand to the best men of his time, from Linnaeus to Pallas ... finally, he possessed such a healthy, direct and energetic, but at the same time modest and a humble soul that one cannot but learn from him and take him as an example ... "*

The son, I repeat, clearly took after his father and was clearly also of a healthy nature. Persuade the foreigner at the beginning of the 19th century on something of the Japanese - this, you know, is not an occupation for byuriuks and not for neurasthenics.

And the son of his father did not survive for long ... The biographer sparingly completes his story about him with the following words: *"After the death of his father, Ad. Laxman returned to Gizhichinsk. His further fate is unknown."*

And Adam's death is usually dated "after 1796", although I am inclined to believe that in that year everything and over...

Well, what does the dear reader suggest the author think after that? How does he propose to the author to regard the death of a healthy, calm, balanced, moderate thirty-year-old guy with good life prospects?

Yes, and - death is only something in the fifty-ninth year of his life. also a calm, balanced, moderate father? A tireless and habitual traveler, by the way ...

Is the hand of the ubiquitous and eternally spoiling Russia of the "Englishwoman" not visible here?

And aren't the author's suspicions about Shelikhov's death becoming more justified now?

Moreover, I formulated these suspicions for myself long before, when, looking through in a through way in the book "Russian Navigators" already mentioned by me, a major biographical information on almost five hundred people, I stumbled upon a name that didn't tell me anything at that time - Laksman Adam

Kirillovich (Erikovich) and immediately made a "stand" on him, reading the words "the first Russian envoy to Japan" ...

And then - let's go - let's go ...

Moreover! After I had pondered enough about the fate of Shelikhov, Laksmanov, Rezanov, I began to look at the failure of Rezanov's embassy in a completely different light ...

In the memorandum I have already cited, Minister of Commerce Rumyantsev wrote about Laxman as follows:
"In 1791 ... lieutenant

Laxman and navigator Lovtsov were instructed to petition the Japanese government for trade... No matter how hopeless the choice of these people was, who did not have the necessary information about political ties, no matter how poorly their own morality corresponded to the important purpose, for it is known that upon their arrival in Japan had sent frequent quarrels among themselves, but ... the Japanese, with all that, allowed one ship to come to Nagasaki harbor ... "

I leave the characterization of Laxman and Lovtsov on the conscience of Rumyantsev's informants... Especially Laxman, although Lovtsov, a natural sailor, was also hardly a squabbler.

Rather, it was beneficial for someone to present Rumyantsev's case in such a way that in St. Petersburg they would not really grieve either about the missing Adam Laxman, or about missed opportunities. Like, yes - two brawlers went, yes - they agreed on something. But it didn't work out, and God bless him ...

Rumyantsev understood the importance of the problem of "bargaining with Japan" and was a smart person, but for some reason he lost sight of the fact that if Laxman's choice had been so "hopeless", then the result of the Japanese efforts of the "unsuccessfully" chosen person would almost certainly have been hopeless.

But it turned out the other way around!

So why did the "scandalist" Laxman succeed, but the polite and courteous Rezanov did not? After all, Rezanov represented Russia already at the highest official level! He was a dignitary, an emergency minister!

In order not to irritate the Japanese, who do not tolerate Christians, Rezanov even ordered to temporarily remove pectoral crosses - especially for sailors who walked with an open chest. Nevertheless, he did not even achieve confirmation of what a modest army lieutenant had achieved from the Japanese before him ...

Why?

Not enough charm? But Rezanov was also clearly a charmer, he knew how to charm, and by nature he was a sincere person, and this is highly valued by all peoples ... Including - among Asians.

Although Japan was then isolated from the outside world by the Japanese authorities themselves, her contacts with this world were constant. And about secret contacts - and not a conversation at all.

So is it not traced not only in the deaths of competent Russian supporters of a strong and active Russian policy in the Far East, but also in Rezanov's Japanese affront of malicious intent by no means of the Japanese?

After all, Shelikhov, Laksmanov, Rezanov were gone, and a great deed fell through ... Exactly - great!

If they lived and acted together (and if they were alive, then this would be exactly the case! -), then Russia could be the first of the world powers to peacefully interrupt that self-isolation of Japan, which only half a century later will be rudely interrupted by the United States. Such a "team" was quite capable of doing it! After all, each of these four was worth each other, and most importantly, they successfully complemented each other!

And half a century of historical odds is wow! The prospects in the Pacific could be completely different not only for the RAC, but for the entire Russian state!

However, everything fell through ... It fell apart, if you think about it, because of only three deaths - Shelikhov, Erik Laxman and Rezanov (Laxman-son, for all his talent, does not count very much, although in the overall "bundle" this would be an important element) ...

So I am not inclined to explain such a development of the situation by the vicissitudes and accidents of fate. What blame it on "case"!

The strange failure of the second Russian embassy, the strange deaths of Shelikhov, Laksmanov and, finally, Rezanov were so beneficial to certain anti-Russian forces that they, these forces, should be especially looked for. No need...

Alas!

HOWEVER, RAC itself was still on the rise, and above all thanks to the energy of Buldakov and fifty-year-old Alexander Baranov ...

The reign of Alexander Andreevich Baranov constituted a whole epoch in the history of Russian America. AND you can't call it otherwise than the "era of Baranov"!

It has already been mentioned in various places in this story. Born in 1746 in the city of Kargopol, Arkhangelsk province, on the banks of the Onega River, he first worked as a merchant in St. Petersburg and Moscow, then moved his business to Irkutsk, founded a glass and vodka factories, a trading post on the Anadyr River in the land of the Chukchi ...

This trading post then knocked him down.

Both large and tough in nature, Baranov was a generalist in business, which was especially well manifested during his rule of Russian America. Essentially self-taught, at the age of forty-one he was elected an honorary member of the Free Economic Society for his correspondence on various economic experiences.

By the way, about the glass factory... This is how destinies cross - Baranov founded this factory in 1784 in Taltsy near Irkutsk together with Laksman the father. Laxman, among other talents and a chemist, came to the conclusion that in the production of glass, instead of potash (soda), which took a lot of wood, one can use natural Glauber's salt (his discovery is also noted in the TSB). And he profitably put his idea into practice together with Baranov. At the same time, as Laxman's biographers report, there is reason to think that he had considerable intellectual influence on Baranov and "was his

the only teacher in everything related to natural science.

Well, the teacher was good, and the student was not bad either.

A man of action, Baranov was devoted to the cause. The Russian Biographical Dictionary of 1900 reports about him - already as a manager of the RAC - such information that in itself characterizes him well: "Receiving 20 shares from the company, Baranov gave 5 shares each to his closest two assistants, and, producing autocratically significant trade turnover and delivering huge profits to the company, he did not leave himself any fortune ... In 1818 (that is, at the age of seventy-two years. - S.K.), after repeated requests for his resignation, Baranov was replaced by captain Gagemeister. When the cases were handed over, all the company's property, which was considered to be available, was found not only in perfect order, but even in quantity exceeding that indicated by the inventories.

This is necessary, my dear reader! After the revision, instead of a shortage, there is an oversupply. talk about they won't believe this to any current businessmen - "Three Percent"!

And now - about the factor ...

Baranov was cool, and either this played a role, or simply "non-peaceful" Chukchi approached his trading post in 1789, but that year it was ruined. And soon Baranov also went bankrupt.

The affairs of Shelikhov's company then fell into decay, as Baranov's biographers write, "due to the lack of an energetic, honest person on the scene (that is, in Russian America. - S.K.)", capable not only of the most versatile activities, but also able to get used to all the difficulties and hardships of colonial life.

And Shelikhov invited Alexander Andreevich to take on the difficulties.

But Baranov agreed, for he was a man of duty and, like Shelikhov, saw something in Russian America more than just a source of personal gain.

Yes, in fact, what kind of "profit" in the case of Baranov can we even talk about!

Already in 1791, he was on Kodiak Island off the coast of Alaska, where the main Russian settlement, still Shelikhov, was then located. And immediately begins to look for a more suitable place for the Russian American "capital", year by year moving more and more to the south.

In 1796, Russian people reach Yakutat Bay, and at 60 degrees north latitude (for Russian Alaskan possessions - very "southern"), the settlement of Novorossiysk arises.

Finally, in 1804, on the island of Sitka (Sitkha) in the Alexander Archipelago, Baranov, an Arkhangelsk resident, founded the Novo-Arkhangelsk fortress, which since 1809 became the official administrative center of Russian American possessions.

By the way, the archipelago named after the Russian emperor, which includes the island of Baranov (formerly Sitka), is stretched by a squadron of unsinkable aircraft carriers (when viewed from modern positions) at the very edge of present-day Canadian America, from which Russian

America then cut off on the mainland a narrow strip almost a thousand kilometers long!

Oh, if these "aircraft carriers" would serve Russia to this day!

N-yes!

In the autumn of 1804, Yury Fedorovich Lisiansky helped Baranov a lot ... The Tlingit Indians (the Russians called them "koloshi") began military operations against our settlements.

The Tlingit captured the old Russian village of Mikhailovskoye on the island of Sitka, exterminated 20 Russian industrialists and 130 Aleuts, plundered the RAC warehouse ...

The stimulus here was the "fire water" of the Yankee pirate Barber, whose sailors in disguise were behind the whole Russian-Kolosh "war". Took part in this short "war" and the sloop Lisiansky "Neva".

Just after the end of the fighting, Novo-Arkhangelsk was founded on the site of the devastated Mikhailovsky with fortress of six guns.

And here are the impressions of Yuri Fedorovich from Alexander Andreevich: "In terms of his talents, he deserves all respect. In my opinion, the Russian-American Company cannot have a better boss in America. In addition to knowledge, he already has the habit of doing all kinds of work and does not spare his own property for the public good.

In addition to the part in the RAK part, such a characteristic is quite applicable to its author himself. And from this her the value only increases.

Through the efforts of Baranov, shipyards are being built in the Russian colonies, a copper smelter is being created on Kodiak, Baranov is beginning to develop coal on the coast of the Kenai Peninsula and, of course, is expanding the fur trade.

Sometimes he had to rule with a firm and even cruel hand, but there was a severe need for that.

The bulk of the local population got along well with the Russians, which George Vancouver admired. Alas, since then, the situation has changed in the sense that Anglo-Saxon predatory grabbers have increasingly infiltrated here. Now both the British and the Yankees supplied some of the natives with guns and gunpowder supplies, and then under

goaded them to hostile actions against the Russian colonists - for quite understandable reasons. The same Novo-Arkhangelsk had to be put on the site of our old settlements.

However, Alexander Andreevich would not have been Russian if he treated the local population with contempt - like a white British "sahib". He arranged shelters and schools, he sent young slanted guys to Russia, and from there they returned as navigators and craftsmen.

In 1807, Baranov received the Order of Anna, 2nd class. Both the order and the degree are very high. He was promoted to collegiate adviser. According to the table of ranks - the rank of the 6th class (the corresponding military rank is colonel). But, I think, for him, these were just levers of additional influence on the situation.

Here he is in the portrait - with "Anna around his neck", hanging low, like a pectoral cross or an icon the panagia of a church hierarch... A large forehead with a large receding hairline, narrow, stubbornly compressed lips, an intelligent, understanding smile. He might have seemed like a Jesuit if it weren't for this low-hanging "Anna"... For him, this is not a reward, but a symbol of faith, faith in the importance of a sense of duty and a sense of the Motherland.

Before us is a man who made his choice long ago, irrevocably and quite consciously ...

In 1812, he implemented the idea of Rezanov in 1806 to organize a permanent Russian outpost in Northern California and gave impetus to the founding of the settlement of Fort Ross already at 38 degrees north latitude ... That is, almost at the latitude of San Francisco.

The history of Fort Ross, a promising and timely Russian acquisition, which later became one of our unfortunate geopolitical losses, is connected with the name of Baranov's associate, Ivan Alexandrovich Kuskov (old sources give his last name as Kusov), a native of Totma, an ancient Vologda town on the Sukhona not far from Veliky Ustyug known to us.

In 1790, when Baranov concluded an "American" contract with Shelikhov, Kuskov, a twenty-five-year-old "Totem tradesman" Kuskov, signed a contract with Baranov himself, assuming the duties of his personal assistant.

Totem merchants have already appeared in my story. Totma is a small town, and people, as we see, not small ones grew in it ...

Kuskov returned to Totma thirty-three years later to die, and in the same 1823 he died childless. In his biography, written in 1848 by the Vologda local historian E.V. Kichin, it is said that "he had a cheerful disposition, was affectionate in dealing with people, faithful in performance."

On August 19, 1790, Baranov and Kuskov on the galliot "Three Saints" left Okhotsk for Unalashka, crashed, reached the island on a leather canoe on June 27, 1791, lived together in labors and worries the entire "zero cycle" of settled Russian America, then there are years bitter with sweat and sweet with the consciousness of what they have done. They parted only in the year 1808 ...

They broke up temporarily - Baranov sent Kuskov, who had previously been the head of the Yakutat Bay, to the south with the task of: mapping the coast from Alaska to California; to establish a Russian settlement in a convenient and free from Spanish influence place in California; establish trade relations with the Spaniards and provide the northern Russian colonies with provisions.

Kuskov went by sea to the California coast five times and established there, in Upper California, first a small colony with a fortress "Ross" ...

The Russian flag was raised over Fort Ross on September 11, and on September 9, the cannons of the Battle of Borodino thundered near Moscow. Baranov and Kuskov, of course, did not know about this. But they were aware of the thunderstorm that broke out over Russia, and therefore they gave their new offspring a proud, sonorous and victorious name ...

Later, Khlebnikov's ranch and Kostromitinov's ranch appeared near the fortress.

In 1806, Kuskov received the title of Commerce Advisor. The Minister of Commerce, Count Rumyantsev, wrote to him on this occasion: "I will be very pleased if you accept my solicitation for this award at the price at which I put it; for from the time of managing the ministry entrusted to me (Rumyantsev had been a minister for four years by that time. - S.K.), only five were awarded this distinction. And now you receive it from the Royal goodwill "...

Of course, both the minister and the monarch were RAC shareholders, but Kuskov's difference proved once again that that they valued and supported the RAC as a matter of state.

Speaking of Ivan Alexandrovich Kuskov-Kusov, it is perhaps necessary (to avoid any confusion) to mention his namesakes, the family of famous St. Petersburg merchants Kusovs, who were also closely involved in the affairs of the RAC.

The founder of the family - Vasily Grigorievich Kusov (born in 1729) from 1766 conducted extensive foreign trade, including "colonial" goods. Having died in 1788, he did not live up to the time of the RAC. But his son, Ivan Vasilyevich, and his grandson, Nikolai Ivanovich, became: the first one of the founders of the RAC, and the second one of its directors.

Ivan Kusov had trading offices in St. Petersburg, Moscow and Amsterdam, in 1800 he received the Order of St. John of Jerusalem - the Order of Malta (after all, the Russian emperor was the Grand Master of the Knights of Malta since 1798). Not everyone, as we see, Pavel only handed out pokes ...

Let us return, however, to Baranov.

Like any talented and tough person, mediocre and lazy people did not tolerate him. They complained about him, justifiably and not very well, to the Senate. Especially in his last years. In 1816, he had a serious quarrel with the proud young commander of the Suvorov RAC vessel, twenty-eight-year-old Mikhail Lazarev. The old stubborn and the young stubborn did not get along ... It's a pity - both were Russian people of high standard ...

Perhaps that is why they sometimes write about Baranov that he supported the "cane" in trading posts. discipline" and preferred to conduct business from a position of strength.

Well, he himself called himself "Russian Pizarro", he constantly wore iron chain mail under his clothes, but could he have been able to stay with a handful of Russians in the far side for decades and develop his activities if he behaved unfairly towards the natives? Indeed, at the time of Baranov, 448 Russians, 553 Creoles, 5334 Aleuts, 1432 Kenais and 479 Chugachs lived in Russian colonies (according to official data). And they were surrounded by tens of thousands of "wild" Indians.

Yes, Baranov was willingly slandered. However, even ill-wishers admitted that their power

Baranov did not use for personal enrichment.

And speaking of Pizarro...

In fact, Karamzin called Yermak "Pizarro Russian", and Baranov something, and he clearly read "History of the Russian State" ... And identifying himself with the Russian "Pizarro"-Yermak was quite appropriate and logical for him: Yermak gave Siberia to Russia, and Baranov, through his labors, wanted to give Russia America.

A comparison with Francisco Pizarro could also come to mind because the Spaniard, like Baranov, did not discover America, but it was in America, like Baranov, that he founded new cities, gave his country new lands and new opportunities... Albeit far from ladies' tricks.

In 1912, in the "Partnership of Ivan Dmitrievich Sytin" (he, by the way, immediately after the revolution transferred his publishing house to the Soviet state and died in 1934, eighty-three years old, a personal pensioner), the Military Encyclopedia was published with biographies of commanders, military leaders and military figures of Russia.

Alexander Andreevich did not have a military rank and rank, but he was not forgotten by the purely military compilers of the Sytin Encyclopedia, having received a flattering and honest article, where, in particular, it was reported that "extraordinary natural abilities and remarkable energy helped him, only through reading and traveling, to acquire extensive and accurate knowledge.

It was also said there: "In 1812, Baranov founded in Northern California, on the shores of New Albion, the Russian colony of Ross. This was seen as only the first step towards the acquisition of more fertile and suitable areas. In 1815, Baranov took part in organizing an expedition to the Sandwich Islands ... "

YES, THOUGHTS have long fascinated Baranov far south of Fort Ross - to the Sandwich Islands ... Now this name is not in use, because the Yankees later renamed them Hawaiian (which is actually more accurate, since it is consonant with the name of the mythical ancestral home of the Polynesians Hawaii).

But even the story with the double name proves that not everything about Hawaii Sandwiches was simple and unambiguous. Double geographical names are always stories with a "double bottom" (let us recall, for example, the Malvinas-Falkland Islands, Danzig-Gdansk, the Czech Republic-Bohemia, Memel-Klaipeda) ...

The Sandwich Islands, the largest archipelago of Oceania, were discovered on January 18, 1778 by James Cook on the way to the shores of the Bering Strait (on the way back, he went there counting on a warm winter, arrogantly came into conflict with the leaders and as a result was killed by the islanders).

The Spaniards, however, were already there in the 16th century, but for some reason did not show interest in their discovery. Cook also named the islands in honor of the first Lord of the Admiralty, Earl of Sandwich, but also did not raise the English flag there.

And he could hardly have done it - the islanders were not so weak and cowardly. With Cook, they angry, they managed to deal with it very decisively.

The Hawaiian archipelago crosses the Northern Tropic, stretches from northwest to southeast for as much as two and a half thousand kilometers and consists of a good two dozen islands - from tiny to very large: Molokai (672 km²), Kauai (1409 km²), Oahu (1554 km²), Maui (1885 km²) and the largest Hawaii (10,399 km²).

In the northwestern part of the archipelago, there are several separate Kauai, Niihau, Kaula and Nihoa ... And the southeastern group of islands includes Hawaii, which looks like a battleship at the head of the island "squadron", and Maui, Kahulavi, Molokai, Lanai stretching behind it and Oahu (where

Honolulu).

Looking at the map of the Pacific Ocean, you understand that the strategic role of the Hawaiian Islands is exceptional. They are, as it were, specially set up in order to serve as a base for the leading Pacific maritime power. And if Hawaii became Russian, then Russia would have a solid chance to become such a power and remain it forever.

The "game" here was worth not only candles, but more - a serious political risk and the associated possible complications.

In 1804, Lisiansky's Neva visited Sandwiches, in 1816 our Kotzebue was there, making a "circumnavigation of the world" (he, by the way, believed that Cook himself was to blame for his death) ... Other Russian sailors were there, and kept in touch with Hawaii and RAK...

In 1804, Kruzenshtern and Lisiansky approached the archipelago from the side of the Marquesas Islands together, but in view of it, Lisiansky with the flagship split up and went to Sandwiches.

Kruzenshtern was in a hurry to deliver Rezanov's embassy to Japan. And Lisiansky went to Ovigī (as he calls the island of Hawaii). It was then that the Russians met for the first time the "ministers" of King Tommy Omi, ruler of the Hawaiian Islands, an old rogue, a Yankee sailor Mr. Lewis Johnson.

At the same time, Tamari, the relatively independent king of the islands of Kauai (Otuvaī) and Niihau (this island is also called Onegau and Onigu-Tamauri in Russian documents), asked Lisiansky to accept him into Russian citizenship.

As for who and when among the Russian sailors was on the Sandwiches, there is no disagreement. The sailors have ship logs, and this is a serious, detailed and thorough document. The history of the unsuccessful political Russian "Hawaiian project" is presented in various sources, firstly, sparingly, and in the second - with discrepancies.

Therefore, beyond doubt, there is only the fact of having an idea to make Sandwiches a Russian possession, as well as the fact of its collapse. As for who was the first to say "Uh-uh ..." and how current events developed, it is hardly possible to establish today - there were too many then and today who wanted to stir up the situation.

But everything happened like this...

Already by the time Lisiansky appeared on Sandwiches, one of the influential supreme leaders completed the creation of a single kingdom on most of the islands. And reigned in it under the name

Kameamea of the First (it is also found in the sources under the names Tamaamaha, Gammameya, Mameamea, Kamehameha, Kamehaha, Ki'mre'mare, Toome-Ome-o, and finally Tomi-Omi).

King Kamehamea was in conflict with King Tamari (also referred to as Kaumualiya, Tomari, Tamarei), although formally Tamari was increasingly dependent on him.

Apparently, Kamehamea did not slurp bast shoes, not only because neither cabbage soup nor bast shoes are found in the tropics, but because he was an outstanding personality. He began to rule first on the island of Hawaii - from 1789 ("Brockhaus and Efron" claims, however, that he became king "four years after the murder of Cook", and this is actually the year 1783).

By 1810, Kamehameha completed the unification of the entire archipelago and reigned until 1819. And thirty years of first-generation power over hot curly heads is no joke. No wonder he was sometimes called Peter the Great and the Napoleon of Polynesia.

There is a portrait of Kamehamea, made by an unknown artist (probably M. Tikhanov,

who visited Hawaii with RAK ships). In this portrait, the king is thin, dressed in a European and tasteful way - a snow-white shirt, a black waistcoat, an elegant black tie-tie ... The face is intelligent, European, deep-set eyes look attentively and hard, strong-willed lips are tightly compressed. On a clean-shaven head, from the crown of the head to the forehead, there is a narrow, three centimeter high, strip of gray hair sticking out "hedgehog" - in the manner of modern "punks".

In the second half of the 10s of the century before last, considerable passions in which this "punk" king was involved ...

The first European ship he saw was Cook's ship. The second is the American ship Columbia, under the command of the first unwitting US circumnavigator, Captain Robert Gray. Gray went from the northwestern coast of America with a cargo of furs to the Chinese Canton (in one of the sources his ship is called for some reason "whaling") and in 1789 came across a chain of islands ...

Neither the first nor the second experience of communicating with whites is of particular joy

Kamehameha did not deliver, but he liked the white guns and their ships. Later, however, he also used the managerial experience of whites, involving some of them in his affairs, but without falling under their unconditional influence.

Initially, he was able to acquire guns, since the Yankees were interested in the fragrant Hawaiian sandalwood, highly valued in the United States and China, and were forced to go to him - not yet the king, and the leader - towards.

By the way, this detail already proves the mind of Kamehameah and his nature. What other fool would have coveted beads, whiskey, "snickers" and "pampers" ... But Kamehameha preferred to get a powerful force factor. A small, but "real" ship was soon added to the guns. And to teach Hawaiians to manage it for a long time didn't have to.

The leader expressed the desire to have his own ship when visiting Hawaii by the expedition of the former officer Cook - George Vancouver in March 1791 (the Frenchman La Perouse was in Hawaii in 1786, as they say, in passing and landed only on Kauai). Carrying out careful surveys of the western coast of North America from 30 to 60 degrees north latitude, Vancouver then went to Hawaii not yet once.

Having received a ship in addition to guns, the leader began to gain fame and supreme power. And through for ten years he had a fleet of twenty-five ships and a strong position as ruler of the islands.

Not stupid!

True, all this is at the cost of progressive deforestation of sandalwood, the only Hawaiian export.

In addition, Hawaii gradually became a base for American whalers in Pacific waters.

In 1804, the islanders were already faced with a new type of whites - with Russians. Yes, even with such glorious our compatriots as Russian military sailors! Yes, and under the command of such a commander as our clever Yuri Fedorovich Lisiansky was. Yuri Fedorovich was then thirty-one years old. And at the age of twenty, Lieutenant Lisiansky, among twelve (according to other sources, sixteen) of the best promising naval officers, was sent by Catherine for an internship in the English fleet as a volunteer. Together, by the way, with Kruzenshtern.

He was in a foreign land for five years ... He made several campaigns, fought with the French, was wounded in the head, went to North America and the East Indies, went around the southern tip of Africa - the Cape of Good Hope, lived for some time in Philadelphia.

And at the same time, he completely retained his Russian soul, and his character was happy.

If not by the time of Lisiansky's visit in 1804, then later Kamehamea, I can assume, realized that he could not stand against the whites. The logical decision is to enter with some whites into a solid political union.

But with what? Whose hand to choose?

The hand of England Cook, who ran into the spears of the islanders, and English rogue adventurers, with the services which did he use?

The paw of the States of the unceremonious Gray, who strove to snatch more profits, and even more unceremonious whalers? Or the right hand of Russia, Lisiansky - kind and respectful, full of unostentatious nobility, with curly hair, with slightly twisted lips, making him look a little like an islander? The king, as I said, was not a fool. But the influence of the Yankees increased.

Therefore, although Kamehamea tried more than once to enlist the protection of the Russians, he did not stutter about the direct transition to the subjects of the Russian emperor. However, it must be assumed that with our smart approach to this matter, everything could have been otherwise.

But King Tamari-Kaumualihi was thinking about Russian citizenship ...

At the end of 1808, Baranov sent the 14-gun sloop Neva to Hawaii under the command of Lieutenant Leonty Gagemeister (we will get to know this naval officer better) for the winter. At the same time, Gagemeister had to carry out routine research.

Leaving Novo-Arkhangelsk on November 10, 1808, the Neva arrived at Sandwich-Hawaii in early January 1809, and there Gagemeister managed to establish good relations with Kamehamea. Kamehamea received him cordially and promised to allocate land for a Russian settlement.

There was nothing surprising or unexpected here. Even Rezanov, in a letter to Rumyantsev dated June 17 (29), 1806, reported:

Like this!

Obviously, Rezanov had in mind the first RAC trade agreement with Kamehamea, which he concluded with him in 1806, the navigator RAK Sisoy Slobodchikov, who came to the island of Oahu on the schooner "Nikolai" ...

And on June 18, 1809, Gagemeister, already from Kamchatka, sent a report to the Minister of Commerce Rumyantsev with a plan to organize an agricultural colony in Hawaii to supply Russian America with food. He believed that for the first time one fortress tower-blockhouse, two dozen Russians and one cannon would be enough ... Interestingly, ten years later, the RAC, in its "Hawaiian" instruction of August 12 (24), 1819, to the same Gagemeister expressed the same idea: *"It is best for the first case ... to build a building in an advantageous place in the form of a vast tower, which, so that the islanders and others have due respect, supply with several guns ..."*

On November 5, 1809, the Main Board of the RAC addressed the tsar himself with such a proposal, but the foundation of a Russian colony in Hawaii was considered a gamble. And although, on the contrary, the rejection of the idea was geopolitical idiocy, the capital's Anglo-Saxon and Masonic "moles" clearly convinced Alexander of the opposite, and - as we see - convinced him.

Nevertheless, Kamehameha was generally loyal to the Russians (although the opposition to this from his "ministers" - the Yankees and just the Yankees was huge!). Suffice it to say that he gave Baranov land holdings, and the aged Baranov, preparing to retire in 1818, did not rule out the idea of settling in Hawaii.

So, the Russians did not have a permanent base on the islands and appeared there periodically. The Yankees were at Kamehameah's side - in advisers. And American captains and "Bostonian" merchants huddled in Hawaii all the time.

The island kings were quite capricious people. In addition, they were constantly and purposefully incited against the Russians. So, during the Anglo-American War, in 1813, the captain of the ship of the American Astor Fur Company (and it will be said about her in due time) - the Yankees William Hunt repaid Baranov for hiding from the British in Novo-Arkhangelsk by the fact that, later declaring on Sandwich, slandered the Russians in front of Kamehamea. And he stopped trusting them and Baranov personally ...

Tamari was not consistent either (in 1821, one of the documents of the RAC spoke of "the well-known his wild fickleness").

Therefore, the "Hawaiian" Russian policy had to be carried out very carefully and painstakingly - with a constant increase in our presence there. And, of course, since some types have already been identified, this policy had to be carried out in a sovereign way, that is, by the forces of the state.

And it was carried out, in fact, only by the forces of the RAC ...

And suddenly the situation became a landslide ... In 1815, Baranov sent to the Sandwich Islands expedition led by RAC agent-commissioner Dr. Egor Nikolaevich Sheffer.

At that time Sandwiches were already quite centralized. And yes, they are strong. Cook already estimated the number of islanders at 200 thousand people, and for all its approximateness, this figure respect inspires.

Former ship's doctor, originally from Bavaria, Georg Anton (Egor

Nikolaevich) Sheffer was born in 1779 and was in the Russian service from 1809, and in the service of the RAC from 1813.

His immediate task was to resolve the conflict with the lost off the coast of Otuvai (Kauai) company ship "Bering". A cargo worth 20 thousand piastres was "saved" by the subjects of King Tamari. This story is dark - most likely the captain of the ship Bennett (Yankee in the service of the RAC) deliberately planted the Bering on the stones, counting precisely on the "rescue" - plunder and his share after that.

In the report of Schaeffer of August 1816 and in the note of the RAC addressed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs Nesselrode of January 1818 (compiled according to the reports of the same Schaeffer), the essence of the events is set out a little different, but in general it turns out that ...

Schaeffer first landed on the main island of King Kamehamea-Tomi-Omi - Hawaii (Owigi, Oveigi) ...

Baranov sent Kamehamea with Schaeffer a large silver medal on the "Vladimir" ribbon from among those that Rezanov had brought to him. But the king received the messenger Baranov in such a way that he "was even in danger of losing his life" ... The reason was all the same - in "cheering (inciting. - S.K.) foreigners living with him "...

The case helped - the king became seriously ill with a "chest disease", and Schaeffer cured him, and at the same time his beloved wife Kachuman.

Everything changed immediately: the king promised to help settle the problems with the cargo of the Bering, influencing Tamari, gave Schaeffer "on his island people and land for settling in eternal possession" and built three houses for him.

In the meantime, two more company ships approached, and Schaeffer went to Otuvai to Tamari. Here, too, everything was settled quickly - Tamari honestly and ingenuously admitted that he was incited by "the first

minister "...

But that was not all!

Schaeffer, as he himself informed in August 1816, was instructed by Baranov "to arrange for Sandwich Islands trading post.

With Kamehamea, this plan no longer worked, as Schaeffer reported, *"King Tamaamaha, whose actions were led by the old English (actually a Yankee. - S.K.) sailor D. Jung and several Americans, decisively rejected this proposal."*

But, as Sheffer wrote further, *"King Tamari Otuvaya not only allowed the creation of a Russian trading post, but even himself asked for the protection of the Russian emperor and in the most solemn way in the form of a written act handed over the supreme leadership over his island to His Majesty the Russian Emperor Alexander Pavlovich ... "*

All this was fully consistent with Baranov's direct recommendation to Schaeffer "the island of that Atuvay to take in the name of the Sovereign of our Emperor of All Russia into possession under his power.

By the way, knowing this, you don't understand why Academician Bolkhovitinov, an expert on the problem, writes about the "adventure of Dr. Schaeffer" - after all, Schaeffer acted within the framework of Baranov's instructions, and these instructions were, yes, bold and daring, but sovereignly daring. And not at all *adventurous*.

After all, the idea of "Russian" Sandwiches was quite in the spirit of Baranov's patron Shelikhov, who at the end of the 18th century was ready to extend the sphere of Russian interests all the way to the Philippines! and Rezanov thought about the same...

Everything turned out very solemnly. The main board of the RAC on January 19 (31), 1818, informed the Minister of Foreign Affairs Nesselrode, according to Lieutenant Yakov Anikievich Podushkin, commander of the Otkritie ship and Baranov's closest assistant:

"This event was accompanied by the following celebration: on May 21, 1816, the king on the quarterdeck (the most honorable place in the middle part of the deck where parades and parades are held. - S.K.) of the Discovery ship, handing Dr. Schaeffer this act of subjugation, asked himself, in a great evidence of his obedience, the flag of that ship and the uniform ... Podushkin with all the equipment and then went to his shore with seven shots from the ship firing seven cannons. When he arrived on the shore, he immediately set up the flag on the prepared place with 14 shots from cannons placed there, and the people gathered around the king, to whom he announced this conquest, shouted hurra! The next day, the king invited Dr. Schaeffer and Lieutenant Podushkin to his table and met them in front of his house and with all his names. 30 selected people made up his guard and stood in the parade, and the whole people were up to 1000 people. There were only men at the table, and the women left. Instead of music, they beat the drum. The king proposed a toast to the health of the sovereign emperor with a thunder of cannons and cheers, then he toasts to his health.

A "commercial act" was also signed. The Russians received the right to freely establish trading posts and have plantations in the possessions of Tamari. The king undertook to trade in sandalwood only with the RAC, and "have no trade with the Americans."

Baranov Tamari "gave in absentia ... in the rank of his first chief (minister) for eternity royal village ... on the island of Ovagu and for that he handed a special act to Dr. Schaeffer "...

In his letter of August 1816, Schaeffer wrote to the Main Board of the RAC in St. Petersburg:

"Maybe the emperor will send one frigate to the Pacific Ocean, which ... will be of great importance for the Russian Empire.

It was more than urgent - the Yankees just got pissed off! In September 1816, American captains tried to lower the Russian flag in the village of Vaimea. There were no Russians there - the islanders themselves rebuffed the Yankees, and the Russian flag still fluttered over the island of Kauai!

And the Yankees undertook provocation after provocation. Moreover, these were purely private, not officially supported "initiatives". Simply put, it was robbery and piracy.

Europe was also alarmed - sensational reports about Russians in Hawaii appeared in the newspapers. Yankees there - this is acceptable for "Europe" ... But here are *the vankas* ... Well, do they have the right to such a thing?

Schaeffer's report reached RUSSIA only in August 1817, and on August 17 (29) the Main Board of the RAC sent Nesselrode a corresponding note.

Nesselrode reacted. And for Nesselrode - quite quickly. Already on August 29 (September 10), an order was sent to London for the Russian ambassador, Count Christopher Andreevich Lieven, "to collect accurate information about the existing relations between the Sandwich Islands and between them and other states, and also to make sure whether two islands from this archipelago - Otuvai and Onegau enjoy independence widely recognized so that their ruler could declare his submission to Russia, and the imperial government - to accept it, without giving rise to justified

protests."

Lieven's response dispatch was marked on November 15 (27), 1817 ... He collected information carefully and carefully, and here are his main findings:

Lieven also believed that permanent Russian settlements on the Sandwiches would be useful for RAC trade deals.

WHILE there was a diplomatic correspondence, the Yankees practically thwarted the plans of the Russian Bavaria and almost destroyed the results of his efforts. The Anglo-Saxon sailors in the service of the RAC cheated, and the Yankees in Hawaii told Tamari that the US was at war with Russia. And if Tamari does not drive the Russians from Otuvay and does not lower the Russian flag, then to

five American ships will come to the island and Tamari and his subjects will be killed.

Schaeffer tried to resist, but tactically the Yankees were stronger and achieved their goal - Schaeffer and his comrades barely managed to get away from the increasingly arrogant American captains.

In Russia, this has not yet been known. And, it must be said that the Main Board of the RAC in the above-mentioned note dated January 19 (31), 1818, Nesselrode did not condemn the activities of Dr. Schaeffer (the Company only complained that Schaeffer promised Tamari military assistance against Kamehameha).

On the contrary, it was written that *"the Board of the Company, at the same time, submits to the discretion of Your Excellency historical, climatic and statistical information about the Sandwich Islands ... from which it is clear that they are completely free from the influence of European powers" ...*

RAC repeated Lieven's conclusions - which does Lieven credit! Exactly so, because the RAC note was based on the information of such observant people as Leonty Gagemeister and Vasily Berkh (both of these names we have already met on these pages and will meet again).

I could convey the essence of the RAC note on Sandwiches in my own words, that is, in a more convenient modern language, but I'd better give the reader the opportunity to once again get acquainted with the exact text of an old document:

RAK asked Nesselrode to bring everything stated to the emperor.

That is, in itself, Schaeffer's initiative by everyone who understands the essence of the problem is by no means

regarded in real time as a gamble or something absurd. Only later, when the tsar put a "veto" on the project, all the dogs were hung up on the doctor.

In the meantime, the departmental wheels of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were just beginning to spin ... And on February 24 (March 8), 1818 Nesselrode notified the Minister of the Interior Kozodavlev:

"The Sovereign Emperor deigns to believe that the acquisition of these islands and their voluntary entry into his patronage not only cannot bring Russia any significant benefit, but, on the contrary, in many respects is associated with very important inconveniences ..."

On the original there was a litter of the king: *"To be according to this" ...*

Osip Petrovich Kozodavlev was not noticed in anything particularly bad in Russian history and was noted there more positively than in any way. However, with the brightness and, even more so, with the independence of character, he did not differ, and did not have a broad state mind.

He simply "broadcasted" Nesselrode's message to the RAC Main Board and limited himself to that ... I don't think that he personally timed the sending of the letter to the RAC board precisely on March 13, Russian style. But this important letter is dated exactly on the 13th...

Yes, the other side, the anti-Russian side, was active. Thus, Count Yakov Osipovich Lambert, a dark figure, at that time - the manager of the State Commission for the Repayment of Debts, later - the director of the Department of Foreign Trade, said that "Russia, due to its geographical position, is not destined for a great development of its naval forces."

Well, I'm not even talking about Nesselrod ...

In his "History of Russian America" edition of 1799 (I will talk about this amazing work more than once), Academician Bolkhovitinov claims that the Foreign Ministry played the main role in making a negative decision, and this is true. But where did he get the idea that this decision took into account "the considerations set forth in the note by H.A. Lieven"? After all, Lieven wrote about the opposite!

It remained to decide what to do with the act solemnly signed on the quarters of the "Discovery" "subjugation"?

Indeed, in the note of the RAC dated January 19 (31), 1818, there were such lines:

And now this document turned into an uncomfortable piece of paper. And on March 26 (April 7), 1818, the Council RAC decided:

It was also said there that Schaeffer should be recalled (he was already absent from Sandwiches anyway), and to keep the trading posts and land plots acquired by him, strengthening trade relations with the islands.

Alas, having retreated once, Russia and the RAC soon lost everything on Sandwiches ...

As I said, tactically, the Russians from the possessions of Tamari were expelled. But we could there and return - with unfurled banners, with a couple of frigates and in the thunder of cannon salutes!

If the tsar accepted Tamari's act, then from the point of view of international law, Russian frigates would come to Russian possessions. And they would have opposed our ship's guns there only between

folk bandits are Yankee captains who have no official state status.

Seeing the Russian flag in the smoke of hundreds of cannon salutes, Tamari would surely "remember" that this is the flag of "his own". And any actions of the Yankees after that could be suppressed by military force - we would be in our right! With a genuine document from Tamari in hand, we could act tough and bold!

Moreover. Such actions could quickly change the views of Kamehameha-Tomi-Omi himself! He's

I repeat, I was not a fool!

Yes, all this was possible and was quite in the spirit of Baranov: since the trade with Sandwiches is going on, it's time to go for more. Moreover, the new initiative, which found understanding with Tamari, most likely did not run counter to the wishes of Kamehameah either ... The Yankees were already putting pressure on him then, and Kamehameah's own subjects, regarding the temptation of "snickers" and "diapers" of the century, turned out to be much weaker than their monarch ...

So there is, there is reason to believe that Kamehameha seriously hoped to get from Russia support against the Anglo-American pressure and the intrigues of all sorts of adventurers.

And I don't know why one of the literary sources of the beginning of the 20th century certifies Schaeffer's "claims" – like academician Bolkhovitinov – as "reckless", although the Hawaiian king quite officially applied to St. Petersburg with a request for citizenship. And her in St. Petersburg officially considered.

Another thing is that Alexander rejected it.

BECAUSE the plans of the "Arkhangelsk peasant" Baranov to turn Sandwiches into a zone of Russian interests were by no means groundless dreams ... Especially since RAC is with them, I repeat, already traded.

Yes, there were grounds for the plans... But here is what the former Soviet "corresponding member", and now the Russian academician Bolkhovitinov, wrote in 1999: "To the modern reader, the decision of Alexander I may seem completely unexpected ... and even ridiculous. How could it happen that the tsarist government categorically refused to acquire the Pacific pearl?

And then - instead of really being surprised and at least briefly dwelling on the anti-Russian nature of Nesselrode and his recommendations to the tsar - Bolkhovitinov indistinctly explains this inexplicable decision "by the principle of legitimism, which the tsarist government strictly followed", and describes the situation, now and then gloating about the failure Schaeffer, but - not at all indignant

meanness of the Yankees.

Schaeffer, on the other hand, was persistent and, having reached Europe at the end of July 1818, he tried to personally hand over the Memoir of the Sandwich Islands to the tsar, who was at the next "sacred" congress in Aachen.

He offered to send two frigates to Sandwiches and declared that he was ready to "dare ... life for the good humanity and the benefit of Russia.

Schaeffer put the accents very right here. Russian Sandwiches would be useful not only to Russia, but would also work for the benefit of all mankind, because they could not be "ownerless" for a long time, but gradually cleaned them up into the hands of the Yankees. As part of the United States, Hawaii could only bring humanity additional strategic threat.

But they did not allow Tsar Schaeffer, although he handed his memoir to both Nesselrode and the second head of the Foreign Ministry - Kapodistrias.

Nesselrode sent a copy of the memoir from European Aachen to St. Petersburg on November 13, 1818, European style... Again, for some reason, on the thirteenth... However, everything had already been decided... In 1819 Schaeffer left Russia forever and settled in Brazil. In the same year, I will say right away, Baranov also died ...

HERE is a possible train of thought of Baranov and Schaeffer ...

Sandwiches-Hawaii are located at a distance of almost four thousand kilometers from the United States. But this is from

their western coasts. According to the map, this is four thousand direct sea routes.

However, **at that time**, the United States did not have any more or less serious bases and ports *on* the west coast. Actually, those deserted places where George Vancouver sailed at the end of the 18th century, where the captain of the fisherman Gray beat foxes, were not yet under the jurisdiction of the United States. And these places in the days of Captain Gray were the same, in fact, deserted as in the days of Captain Vancouver (they are not very populated even now).

And the famous "River of the West", which flows into the ocean and was named by Gray after his ship "Columbia", for a long time was a mystery to the Americans ... For a long time they did not know the way to it across the continent.

Therefore, the Yankees then had to get to Hawaii around Cape Horn, and this way lengthens at times!

On the map, Hawaii is twice as far from Russia as it is from the modern United States. So what! First, English Australia was from England and even further. Or, say, to this day the French Kerguelen archipelago is from France.

Most importantly, **at that time**, from Russian America and even from Kamchatka to Sandwiches, Russians were it's easier to get to than Americans from Boston to Hawaii!

The rapid development of the US West Coast, the rise of San Francisco and Los Angeles, California fevers and subsequent prosperity are already the end of the 19th century.

And to get supreme rights in Hawaii, quite consistent within the framework of international law, Russia could at the beginning of the XIX century. The historical distance of fifty years is small, while the political one is huge size!

In the 20th century, the United States placed its naval base in Hawaii. Its name is now known even to those who are not at all familiar with maritime history. This is Pearl Harbor.

But in its place could be that non-freezing base of the Russian fleet, which Russia was so incompetently looking for at the end of the 19th century in the Far East, eventually reaching the incompetent Russian-Japanese war!

Could, could be on the site of the American Pearl Harbor Russian Hawaiian Fort Arthur! And without fate Manchurian Port Arthur...

So the idea of Sheffer and Baranov was geopolitically rich, humanly courageous and honored the Russian name.

That would be such audacity and breadth of intention - yes, to those who sat on the Russian throne.

But Alexander Andreevich Baranov is not Alexander Pavlovich Romanov. But the latter did not want to have new subjects in his citizenship. Yes, and he was already broken at that time. And this spiritual breakdown intensified. We will learn more about this break, because it is connected with the theme of our

storytelling.

And the whole project, alas, was curtailed, which the Yankees also actively contributed to. Their Russians are "Hawaiian" plans did not suit from any side.

A few guns, more alcohol, in proportion - moderate sums of gold dollars ... And supporters of the "Russian orientation" were given a full swing in their snow-white islander teeth.

Kamehameha the First was killed on May 8, 1819 ... RAC agent Schaeffer was expelled from the islands ... The "Russian Fort" built by him passed into the possession of the new Hawaiian king - Kamehameha the Second. Tamari-Kaumuali was taken to the island of Hawaii - in honorary captivity.

And a year later, American whalers poured unhindered into the still free Sandwiches, the first American missionaries and the first US consular agent arrived. The Sandwich Islands began to be called now Hawaiian ...

The son of the late king, Kamehameya II, did not follow his father... Gradually yielding to America, in 1823 he went with his wife to join civilization in England, where he died, as they say, from a quite decent European measles disease.

The late king's grandson, Kamehameah the Third, ruled like his grandfather for thirty years. But he ruled far from like a grandfather, because America already ruled with might and main.

Everything went on as usual ... In 1834, the first established Yankee newspapers appeared ... In 1840, the constitution written by them was adopted ... In 1848, a "great redistribution" took place, legalizing private property and foreign land ownership on the islands ...

Well, this story is now familiar to us ...

The last reigning descendant of a failed Russian royal subject, Kamehameya the Fifth, died in 1872, having managed to establish the "Order of Kamehameya" - an enamel cross on a moire ribbon. At that time, the kingdom of whalers was already replaced by the kingdom of sugar planters, naturally - American...

The logical end came at the end of the century ... Back in 1892, the encyclopedic dictionary of Brockhaus and Efron, which had just begun to appear in Russia, in the article "Hawaiian Islands" reported that Queen Liliuoka (Liliuokalani), the widow of the American John Dominis, the "governor" of the island of Oahu, reigns there. And in 1893, American planters organized a coup and, with the support of a landing from an American cruiser, overthrew the queen widow (concurrently, she was also the author of the unofficial Hawaiian anthem with the delicately floral name "Aloha Oe", sung by Jack London in the short story of the same name).

To her misfortune, Lilywaka—under the influence of nationalist circles—set out to suddenly abolish the "democratic" "constitution," limit American influence, and...

trade.

And then the "rebels" announced their accession to the United States. And that's what, dear reader, is interesting ... Well, aren't American politicians bastards from time immemorial! What do you think! The United States **also** did not accept the islands as its citizenship - hypocritical President Cleveland "refused" annexation.

The "rebels", however, were not embarrassed, and on July 4, 1894, they proclaimed the "Hawaiian republic." Note - July 4, that is, the Day of the Declaration of Independence of the United States.

Long live democracy!

It was not until the Spanish-American War of 1898 that a joint congressional resolution on annexation, and

The United States "took possession" of those Hawaiis that they had controlled for more than half a century ... A bronze statue of Kamehameha the First was placed in front of the courthouse in the administrative center of Hawaii - Honolulu ...

And they also talk about the "simplicity and directness" of a 100% American. Why, such tricks and the Jesuits would envy!

By that time, the descendants of the subjects of Kamehame the First were in an absolute minority on the islands, because they had also been dying out for more than half a century, and the Americans to work on sugar

plantations from where and who only were not imported to Hawaii: the Chinese, the Japanese, and the Portuguese ...

The classic of German literature and naturalist Adalbert von Chamisso, who ended up on Sandwiches in 1816 with the Russian brig "Rurik" under the command of Kotzebue as an expedition botanist, argued:

I do not know whether Chamisso's opinion managed to reach Nesselrode in time, but later it was referred to in Russia. For some reason, the author of "Peter Schlemil" kept silent about the third - Russian version (although he definitely knew about it!), And he turned out to be a useless prophet.

In the early 90s of the XIX century, on other islands of the South Seas - Samoa, torn apart between the USA, England and Germany, the author of the famous "Treasure Island", the English writer Robert Louis Stevenson, lived, gradually dying, with his wife Fanny.

They wandered around Oceania more than once - a photograph of Stevenson sitting in an armchair next to the Hawaiian "King" Kalakua served as his calling card when he met other Pacific leaders. However, the romantic writer finally settled in Vailima, in Samoa.

The picture of *the white* man ruling there was no different from the Hawaiian one, and on July 17, 1893, Fanny wrote in her diary: , *my heart burns with shame and rage, and I am ready for any madness.*

The entry refers to the time of the collapse of the struggle for independence of a kind of "Samoa Kamehamea" - the leader of Mataafa. He was a friend of Stevenson, and he, in order to recover from the shock of the defeat of Mataafa, went to Hawaii in October 1893.

And there, as one of Stevenson's biographers writes, he "faced another manifestation of imperialist colonial policy: a few months before his arrival, Yankee settlers, under the leadership of the US envoy and with the active support of American naval sailors, overthrew the Hawaiian Queen Liliuokalani, created a puppet "republic "and immediately turned to Washington with a" request "to annex it to the United States" ...

We know about the essence of the Hawaiian "revolution", and Stevenson's "Pacific" diary entry at the beginning of the last year of his life - 1894 can be a commentary on it ... In January of this year, it was
this is what is written:

How these words are inapplicable to Alexander Baranov, to Ivan Kuskov ...

Yes, and - to their compatriots, successors in the management of Russian America ... And - bright, and even - dim.

Tropics, ocean surf, southern constellations - for a Russian person this is all impossible exotic. But everything could be different ...

The stories of the South Sea performed by the romantic Anglo-Saxons Stevenson and Jack London, written at the end of the 19th and at the beginning of the 20th century, might not have taken place then ... Or rather, they could have been completely others...

Russia would need the Sandwich-Hawaiian Islands as its overseas possession before just as the base of the Pacific trade and the base of the fleet - merchant and naval.

And we could have it without entering into conflict with the islanders, but at the same time preserving ourselves native islanders who simply died out under the Anglo-Saxons ...

The natural national task of Russia was to reach its natural geopolitical boundaries, no longer moving forward. In the east, Russian America became such a border, but to keep this

the line, reaching it, was not easy.

Russian Sandwiches could be a geopolitically and politically unique case for Russia in this respect! Unique because Russia could decide on such a distant acquisition, not contrary to the concept of natural geopolitical boundaries.

Russian Sandwiches-Hawaii would back up Russian America. And Russian America would back up Hawaii both as a Russian outpost and as an original phenomenon of life in the southern seas of the planet...

Although what is there for us to grieve over Sandwiches-Hawaii! Monarchic Petersburg missed them back in late tenth years of the last century.

And half a century later, he missed Russian America itself.

Eh, Alexander Andreevich, why weren't you born Alexander Palych!

"RUSSIAN" Sandwiches were one of Baranov's last projects. As we already know, in 1818 Alexander Andreevich received the long-awaited resignation. Intrigues against him also played their part.

He hesitated - whether to go to Russia, whether to stay forever in Novo-Arkhangelsk or settle in Hawaii, which would be useful for the bones that were frozen in the north. Yes, and the situation there was understandable from within...

At that time there were two Russian ships in Novo-Arkhangelsk, which soon set off on their way back to Kronstadt - the companionable Kutuzov and the sloop-of-war Kamchatka under the command of a captain of the 2nd rank Golovnin. Golovnin and persuaded Baranov to return.

On November 27, 1818, Alexander Andreevich sailed to Russia on the companion ship RAC "Kutuzov" under the command of Gagemeister. The whole colony saw him off, and even the Tlingit Koloshi. To one of the Indian leaders, an old friend, Baranov presented his chain mail.

During this voyage, already in 1819, in the Sunda Strait near the island of Java, in view of Batavia (Jakarta) he became ill and died on 16 April.

His body, according to the custom of the sea, was lowered into the water ...

Chapter 4

Alaskan five-year plans

"Bering" decree, the Monroe Doctrine and "All-Seeing eye"

For the first time, Baranov was replaced by an experienced, combative, well-educated sailor and shipbuilder, thirty-eight-year-old Leonty (Ludwig) Andreyanovich von Gagemeister. He wrote scientific diaries on voyages in Russian, German, English, French, Spanish and Portuguese.

That's what a "change" Baranov had!

On his first round-the-world trip, he set off on October 20, 1806 from Kronstadt on the Neva, which had just returned on August 5 under the command of Lisiansky from the first Russian round-the-world trip. For three years he was the head of the Irkutsk Admiralty. Then he commanded the companionships of the RAC "Suvorov" and "Kutuzov".

Previously, the Suvorov, being in the service of the RAC, was commanded in his first "round the world" of 1813-1815 by the future famous Admiral Mikhail Petrovich Lazarev (then he discovered five uninhabited atolls, calling them the Suvorov Islands).

And on the Kutuzov, Gagemeister himself "wound" his second round around the globe. In 1828, on the sloop-of-war "Krotkiy", he circumnavigated the Earth for the third and last time (at the age of fifty-three he began to prepare for the fourth, but suddenly died at the funeral of a comrade).

Leonty Andreyanovich was good for everyone, but the RAC administration "did not pull", he surrendered the colonies to the new ruler, Lieutenant Yanovsky, and on the bridge of the Kutuzov he returned from Russian American to Russian European shores. Less than a year later, he retired and for seven years he was engaged in agriculture on his estate, then leaving "from the plow" to the bridge of the "Meek" ...

He was at the head of the RAC settlements for a short time, but his fate was firmly connected with the company, which once again proves both the breadth of the RAC interests, and its far from being only a commercial nature. It was not for nothing that the same Gagemeister, during his short administration, made a number of sea expeditions to the little-explored regions of Russian America.

Sending in April 1818 from Kodiak Island an expedition of the "industrial man" Pyotr Korsakovsky - it was supposed to cross the narrow southern Alaskan ledge in its "root" part and go to Bristol Bay - Gagemeister said: "God grant that the North opens treasures to us: The South is not so good - the Sandwich Islands refused, and there are no beavers in Ross, and any fishing in few..."

Why "refused" Sandwiches, we know. But the words of Gagemeister about Ross show that Rezanov and Baranov were stronger geopoliticians than Leonty Andreyanovich and saw beyond the beavers skins.

Why, there's nothing to reproach Gagemeister here for. Baranov was the right person in the right place at the right time. And Gagemeister, although he was firmly connected with Russian America, became the steward

Russian America, not by heartfelt aspirations and the inevitable choice of fate, but by designation. He was not drawn to Pizarro Russian ...

And, having become the first temporary "appointee", he opened a long line of them, from five years to five years (where such an account comes from, it will now become clear) who were no longer so much fighters as witnesses of Russia's loss of its Pacific geopolitical potential and a possible powerful future ...

I mentioned the FIVE-YEARS because after Gagemeister, who served as the chief ruler of the RAC possessions, one year in 1818, and his successor, Lieutenant S.I. Yanovsky, who ruled the RAC colonies in 1819 and 1820, almost all other rulers were appointed for a five-year term.

Here is their complete list after Yanovsky ...

The last chief ruler, captain 1st rank Prince D.P. Maksutov, held his post for three years - from 1864 to the year 1867, in which Russian America ceased to exist.

As you can see, these are all combatant ranks who were in the public service ... One of the sections of the monograph of the Soviet expert on the issue N.N. Bolkhovitinov "Russia discovers America. 1732-1799" is called: "Naval officers manage Russian possessions in America."

And Bolkhovitinov himself notes that although they were knowledgeable, honest and conscientious people, as a rule, they did not understand commerce and economics very much, and they looked at their stay in America as a temporary phenomenon.

Almost all of them were good naval officers, experienced sailors. However, they are far from being thinkers and dreamers, like Rezanov. And even the best of them were not characterized by the indomitable, ascetic spirit of the pioneers, who drove Shelikhov, Baranov, Kuskov into the new ... Although they also walked routes unknown to them, discovered and described new lands. Such non-standard, non-routine in its very essence was the service in the RAC ...

However, the majority was characterized by a way of thinking and acting, which manifested itself in the position of the ruler Muravyov regarding Sandwiches, taken by him in 1821. He then wrote to St. Petersburg: *"In order to have trade with the Sandwich Islands, you first need to know what we can sell to them. And what can we take in return for our goods? .. Trade with California for bread and the delivery of fur goods to Russia - this is an article that you need to pay attention to and limit yourself to this."*

The merchant Baranov thought like a state. The naval officer Muravyov was clearly inferior to him here ... And behind the supposedly commercial lack of prospects of the Sandwiches, he failed to see their strategic prospects!

And in California, he saw only food, and not potentially political reinforcements of Russian America...

In the list of the main rulers I HAVE GIVEN, all but three people have in front of the surname only initials. And this is no coincidence.

To explain what is the matter here, I will have to make one more little "lyrical" digression, for which I hope the reader will forgive me...

It is possible that someone has already noticed that I try - whenever possible - to give the full names of those whom I mention at least briefly. I do it this way because I can't stand the habit of historians to confine themselves to initials in documentary narration.

This is disrespectful to the bearers of the initials, and to their fathers, and even to the reader. That is, ultimately, disrespectful towards oneself. And I want to respect myself - just like

inclined to respect everyone **who deserves respect ...**

Sometimes it takes a good half an hour to put the normal Russian name and patronymic "Mikhail Matveyevich" into the text instead of the lowing "M.M.

But in the case of a number of the main rulers of Russian America, I was initially powerless. In the summary lists at my disposal (one with titles, the other without) there were only all these "A.I." And "I.A." ...

Only in three cases were full names easily found.

In the name of a military sailor and "free sailor" in the service of the RAC

Adolf Karlovich Etolin named the strait between the American mainland and Nunivak Island (just Etolin was one of the first to discover Nunivak). On company ships, he sailed from the island of St. Lawrence in the north to the Chilean port of Valparaiso in the south. In 1828, on the Kuril island of Urupe, he founded a permanent companionable fishing village ...

Hydrographer Mikhail Dmitrievich Tebenkov (later Vice Admiral), after his "American" service, published in 1852 "Atlas of the northwestern coasts of America from the Bering Strait to Cape Carrientes and the Aleutian Islands with the addition of some places on the northeastern coast of Asia" and "Hydrographic remarks on the atlas ...".

The achievement, albeit private, but significant, why Tebenkov got into the "Stalinist" Great Soviet Encyclopedia, from where I took his name and patronymic.

The rest, although many of them eventually reached the rank of admiral and were useful Russia and Russian America, were not honored with mentions in encyclopedic dictionaries.

Only later did I manage to decipher a few more initials, and I can now tell the reader the full names of Semyon Ivanovich Yanovsky, Matvey Ivanovich Muravyov, Pyotr Egorovich Chistyakov, Ivan Antonovich Kupriyanov and Stepan Vasilyevich Voevodsky ...

Separately, it must be said about Baron Ferdinand Petrovich Wrangel ... *This* Wrangel got into the TSB to a place of honor. And, in general, - on merit.

Maybe I'll talk about it here...

His BIOGRAPHY began quite typically for a capable Russian naval officer of that time. He was born in the year of Catherine's death, that is, in 1796. At the age of twenty-one, he was released from the Naval Cadet Corps and two years later he leaves under the command of our outstanding navigator Vasily Mikhailovich Golovnin on a round-the-world voyage on the sloop Kamchatka. Then he ended up in Russian America for the first time.

The last years of the reign of Alexander the First, from 1820 to 1825, Lieutenant Wrangel spent on the Kolyma expedition, exploring the shores of North-Eastern Siberia. This expedition also had one more task - to finally find out whether the Asian and American continents are connected.

As you can see, even a hundred years after Bering's first expedition, this issue has not yet been completely closed. Strange, of course ... As we know, in 1778 Cook, and in 1779 Charles Clark, who replaced Cook, furrowed the Arctic zone beyond the Bering Strait very carefully - from the Chukchi Cape Severny (Schmidt) to the Alaskan Cape Ice Cape. Their routes ran in such a way that after them there was no reason to wonder about some kind of Arctic Asian-American isthmus ...

Moreover, after all, Clark, let me remind you, gave the chief commander of Kamchatka Magnus Karl Boehm

maps taken by the Cook expedition. But, apparently, taken on this, "Bering" side of the Bering Strait. But it seems that he forgot to show the maps taken on that "Chukotka" side...

No, the British did not really share their **complete** maps of these places with the Russians - unlike our simple-hearted Izmailov ... Or maybe they did, but such that they subsequently called Russian legitimate distrust.

The complex history of the island, later named after Wrangel, is also connected with the Kolyma expedition. I'll tell you more about her later.

An Ostsee baron by blood, Wrangel was a Russian man by devotion to Russia. After Kolyma, in 1825, he went on an independent circumnavigation on the military transport Krotkiy, and at the age of thirty-three he was appointed the chief ruler of the RAC possessions.

An explorer of the planet by nature and by fate, he wandered a lot through these possessions: Kenai Bay, Kodiak, Spruce Island, Fort Ross...

Under Wrangel, in the north of Alaska, in the depths of Norton Bay, not far from the mouth of the Yukon, the Mikhailovsky redoubt was laid.

For five years of his reign, Ferdinand Petrovich vigorously fought against predatory destruction fur-bearing animal and sought to introduce a planned beginning into its prey.

It was not the Russians who brutally beat the beast, but the Anglo-Saxons (I will have a reason to dwell on this separately, and more than once). And Wrangel possessed the feeling of a master and at the same time was a scientist, which manifested itself both in his organization of research expeditions and in the creation of a magnetic meteorological observatory in Novo Arkhangelsk.

He took care of both Russian settlers and local residents. After Baranov and Kuskov, this was the third and, alas, the last fairly large figure in the history of the RAC.

After leaving the main rulers, he returned to Russia through Mexico and, not without success (in the sense of the consent of the Mexicans), negotiated the cession of land around Fort Ross. Nicholas the First

it didn't go.

Returning to Russia, Wrangel received the rank of rear admiral, and from 1840 he took over as director of the RAC and did a lot to expand its business activities and improve the supply of our American possessions. However, that time was far from victorious for the RAC, although it was relatively comfortable.

By the way, during the period of his directorship in the RAC, there was also the "government" in Russian America of the two most significant of the "insignificant" persons - captains of the 2nd rank Etolin and Tebenkov (the latter was sent by the ruler Wrangel in 1833 on an expedition to the Mikhailovsky Peninsula).

We will meet with Ferdinand Petrovich once again - in those gloomy times when the tsar Alexander II already set out to sell Russian America to the Yankees ...

IN THE WHILE THAT we still have not finished a long and detailed conversation about the era of the emperor Alexander is still the First ...

It turns out to be so extensive for us also because the first quarter of the 19th century, that is, just the time of the reign of Alexander the First, was not just a turbulent period in world history, but also a period of special involvement of Russia in world politics.

And it was the Alexander era that became both triumphal for the RAC - at that time all our most outstanding results were achieved in the development of Russian America, and - fatal, because in the end

In the same era, circumstances arose that laid down trends that were disastrous for the fate of Russian America.

That is why we can see the problem correctly only then; when we look at it through a prism 10-20s of the last century ...

And at the same time, at least briefly, we will also review those earlier times and circumstances that they programmed these 10-20s as they were lived by the world, Europe, Russia and Alexander.

HIS reign Alexander the First began as an open and strong enthusiast of Russia's entry into ocean frontiers and active colonization of Russian acquisitions in America ...

He became one of the shareholders of the RAC (not for income, of course, but to raise the status and prestige of the company), he favored Rezanov and Buldakov, encouraged Baranov, equipped Kruzenshtern's Nadezhda at his own expense and actively supported the ideas of more and more Russian round-the-world voyages, almost each of which had an intermediate finish precisely in Russian America.

The Napoleonic epic temporarily distracted him from America, but, having defeated the Bonaparte, he returned to returned to this interest.

It was under Alexander that our first Antarctic expedition of Thaddeus was equipped in 1819 Faddeevich Bellingshausen and Mikhail Petrovich Lazarev. She discovered Antarctica.

The peak of the "American" activity of the emperor was the publication of his Decree of September 4 (16), 1821 on the prohibition of navigation for foreign ships at a distance closer than 100 Italian miles (190 km) from the coast of the Russian Pacific possessions - from 51 degrees north latitude in America to 45 degrees 50 seconds north latitude in Northeast Asia, as well as the prohibition of foreign trade in this zone of the Russian Pacific Ocean.

I draw the reader's attention to the fact that the Decree moved the official southern border of Russian possessions from the 55th below - to the 51st degree, that is, almost to Vancouver. And this once again proves that the west coast of America was at that time virtually no man's land.

Actually, 51 degrees was probably too much. But the official withdrawal of Russian borders to this degree far from us shows that the Russia of Alexander the First was determined not only to retain Russian America, but also to expand it

Recall that in Catherine's time, Spain tried to climb to the 61st degree, under Alaska ... And here we suddenly began to claim even the 51st degree.

About the true essence of this Decree, which had a chance to become historical, but did not become historical, I I'll say more later, more than once, because the event deserves it... But everything has its time...

For now, I'll just let you know that its adoption was initiated by the Russian-American Company with the approval of its new charter, extending the privileges of the RAC for another twenty years.

And this decree made the Bering Sea a Russian **inland** sea.

This was, of course, a potentially strong blow to Anglo-Saxon robbery and Anglo-Saxon smuggling and provocations in Russian waters. But Russia's decision was absolutely timely and
all international laws - competent.

In order to verify this, you just need to look at the map. Russian (then) Aleuts and Russian (to this day) Commanders completely separated the Bering Sea from the rest of the Pacific Ocean. And all the islands within this sea and its entire coastline - both in Asia and in America - belonged at that time to Russia.

It would seem that there was not much to argue about ... Well, Russia watched for the time being, until the Decree of September 4, looked through its fingers at the absolutely illegal actions of foreigners in its Pacific possessions. And then, finally, I decided not to tolerate this state of affairs in the future! The Yankees did not claim the right to fish and free navigation, say, in the Russian Sea of Azov ...

Yes, it was not there!

And what started...

The United States, in the person of then Secretary of State John Quincy Adams, raised a uniform cry, and the British Foreign Secretary, George Canning, echoed him as if they were all spent their previous life in rehearsals ...

The role of the choir was played by the "free" Anglo-Saxon press on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean (on the western - Pacific coast of North America was then tight with civilization and the press).

There was a lot of noise...

Still - the Anglo-Saxons were forbidden to cleanly beat out seals, beavers and sables in Russian possessions, they were forbidden to drink Aleuts and Indians with smuggled whiskey, they were forbidden to survive Russians from Russian America!

Violence against human rights - and that's it!

For some reason, John Quincy Adams has a reputation among historians as a supporter of friendly relations with Russia, and, I must say, this "Russophile" deserves to be a little delayed on his figure by our attention.

This Yankee was very impudent and typical as a representative of the American political elite in everything. time. Yes, and we will come across this Adams on the pages of this story more than once ...

The future 6th President of the United States, he came from the powerful political Adams dynasty, the founder of which was John's great-great-great-grandfather, Henry Adams, who arrived in America back in 1636. Henry's descendants gained more and more political weight over the years, and John in his political career would not have been able to jump over the "ceiling" reached, say, by his father, with all his desire.

After all, John Adams was the son of the 2nd US President Adams - also John. And the most that I could to make a son is to repeat the father's career. Which has been done over time.

John Quincy's mother, Abigail Smith, was the daughter of an influential Massachusetts clergyman, the Reverend William Smith of Weymouth, and the aristocratic Elizabeth Norton Quincy of Mount Wollaston. Having become the wife of the second American president, she established the basic (and, given her origins, naturally sanctimonious) norms of behavior for all subsequent "first years".

di". Still, she was, after all, by her mother "from the Nortons and Quincy", and they traced their ancestry from the ancestors who accompanied William the Conqueror from Normandy to England.

As for the Adamses, having such a surname, they descended, presumably, directly from Adam and Eve...

John Jr. first encountered Russia at the age of fourteen (!) years, being the personal secretary of Francis Dana (Dana), the head of the first American diplomatic mission to Russia in 1781-1782. Shortly before appearing in the Russian capital, Dane was the secretary of Adams Sr., who was sent to Europe to conduct peace negotiations with Great Britain, which ended the war between the American colonies and the mother country.

Adams Jr. was now a secretary to his father's former secretary. But Dana's mission is not

succeeded, and John Quincy returned to his homeland.

Brilliantly (according to biographers) graduating from Harvard University, he nevertheless did not achieve much success in the field of law, although he did not live in poverty - he did not forget with his generosity
papa president.

And in 1809, forty-two years old, the future sixth American president became the first US envoy to St. Petersburg and remained so until 1814.

It was this Adams who began with protests about the Russian decree, and continued with negotiations with Russia and England to cancel it. In the course of them, he (or maybe not him, but someone else) formulated for the first time the position that from now on America cannot be the object of further European colonization.

Under pressure from Adams and Canning, Alexander had his Decree by the summer of 1822, if not cancel, then actually do not apply in practice ...

This story, my dear reader, for the prospects of Russian America (and for the world prospects of Russia for a good century ahead) turned out to be as unattractive as it was significant. In this connection, we will talk about it later and consider it comprehensively.

In the meantime, I will simply note that the public cries and quiet diplomatic tricks generated by
The decree of September 4 was only the beginning of the Anglo-Saxon pressure on Alexander and Russia ...

It seems that other, already supranational, forces pressed on the tsar, for whom the United States was favorite and promising brainchild. And, whatever one may say, I can't say a few words about this either ...

IF WE pick up an American one dollar banknote, then from its side, opposite to the portrait of George Washington, an attentive all-seeing eye in a shining triangle above a truncated pyramid will look at us.

They say it is a Christian symbol. But in fact it is a symbol primarily Masonic. And people who are familiar with the problem know very well that the "independent" United States was created not so much by the will of the population that inhabited the English colonies in America by the seventies of the 18th century, but by the will of circles, then geographically very far from North America.

Without going into these juicy details in depth, I will report that an insignificant number of Americans took part in the "great war of independence". And even this insignificant number of a couple of tens of thousands of people did not enjoy any public support. So, in the winter of 1777, the army of General Washington, whose portrait adorns the dollar bill, stood on the hills of Valley Forge. And in the hungry, undressed and barefoot, in this army, two and a half thousand died from disease and exhaustion during the winter.

Human.

So the "freedom fighters" were starving.

And everything around was in abundance.

The soldiers were starving because the surrounding farmers preferred to sell food ...
to the British in Philadelphia for hard currency - for pounds sterling.

New York grain merchants and Boston suppliers acted in the same "patriotic" way. And in general, almost everyone in America ... Only a profit of at least a thousand (!) Percent could make
middle yankee patriot of patriots.

In fact, a penny is worthless to soldiers who, instead of dying of cold and hunger in an abundant land, are not able to resort to requisitions that are quite appropriate here. And there weren't even enough sufferers in Valley Forge, from which I personally conclude that Washington's "army" was basically

lumpenized and incompetent rabble, recruited not even from a pine forest! He walked under the "banners of freedom" from need and unwillingness to fill labor corns, but in the hope of profiting from good earnings. There were tricksters who were hired to fight for the ideas of independence several times, each time receiving "elevating"! And for such had to enter the death penalty.

Nevertheless, in the course of recruiting the "liberation army" fantastically impudent and fantastically successful machinations were carried out! Our well-known publicist historian Nikolai Nikolaevich Yakovlev, not noticing the bitter tragicomism in that, and not a genuine tragedy, states without a shadow of irony: "America fought for independence in a severe paroxysm of speculation and shameless profit ..."

But that's the thing, that she did not fight for independence!

Who then fought?

The answer has long been known - the French!

The victories of the French expeditionary corps under the command of Lieutenant General Comte de Rochambeau predetermined the surrender of the British at Yorktown on October 19, 1781. And the whole plan of victorious military operations was developed by the French.

In passing, I note that over the seven years of the "war" for "independence", the total (combat and non-combat) losses Americans did not amount to five thousand people, half of whom died, as we know, at Valley Forge.

The "great" three-week "battle" at Yorktown between seven and a half thousand British and seventeen thousand allied corps (9.5 thousand Americans and 8 thousand French) cost the defending British 552 people killed and wounded, and the allies besieging them - 262

Human.

And could the struggle be fierce if the English expeditionary forces consisted mainly of German mercenaries, whom the English crown bought in bulk from petty German sovereign princes? In American history, the concept of "Hessians" has become stronger. These are precisely the German mercenaries recruited in six German principalities for four and a half million pounds sterling in the amount of 30 thousand people, 19 thousand of whom were from Hesse.

Having "worked out" their own in North America, many "Hessians" remained there, turning into farmers and artisans.

So this whole "war" was just a performance, sprinkled, though not thickly, alive human blood, not cranberry juice.

But why did Royal France fight for the freedom of the Republican United States? And not just fought! The author of The Barber of Seville, Beaumarchais, who knew how to turn around here and there better than his Figaro, in 1776 received the first subsidy of a million livres from King Louis XVI of France, founded the shell company Rodrigues Portales and Company, and in the summer of that year wrote to the Continental Congress : *"We will supply you with everything - clothes, gunpowder, muskets, cannons and even gold to pay for the troops and in general everything you need in the noble (n- yes! - S.K.) war that you are waging. Without waiting for an answer (! - S.K.) from you, I have already acquired for your needs about two hundred bronze four-pound cannons, two hundred thousand pounds of gunpowder, twenty thousand excellent muskets, several bronze mortars, cannonballs, bombs, bayonets, clothes, etc. .p. for troops, lead for musket bullets..."*

Let's think, dear reader, is it possible in a sound mind and clear memory to blow a million gold livres for an abyss of weapons and military equipment, without first asking the one who

you are going to supply: does he need all this?

But Beaumarchais, of course, knew - **it is necessary!**

It is necessary, if not for those who will burn the purchased gunpowder, then, in any case, for those in whose interests of this gunpowder will be burned ...

In the name of gaining "freedom" by the States, France paid off - in modern prices - up to five billion dollars, if not more ... These expenses fell on the royal budget so heavily that they became one of the reasons for the imminent fall of royal power itself!

So why did the millennium kingdom help the Yankees grow stronger, bringing their own downfall closer with such a policy?

Of course, not the insignificant King Louis XV (it was he who said that after him - even a flood!), Who died in his bed in 1774, and not the mediocre King Louis XVI, who died in 1793 under the knife of a revolutionary guillotine, were eager to save the English king George III from his overseas subjects...

Who? The subjects themselves were more interested in freely convertible currency than political freedom.

The same N.N. Yakovlev (repeating, however, just a well-established cliché) explains everything by the fact that French politicians hoped, they say, "by calling the New World to life, to straighten out the balance of power in the Old World, disturbed by the English victories in the Seven Years' War."

But the balance was "corrected" so that after a couple of decades the United States was waging an undeclared war with the benefactor France, and even before that, in 1795, the well-known fox Charles-Maurice Talleyrand, who was in America at that time, wrote from there: "*The United States America wants and can be useful to England to a much greater extent than France.*"

And it was so in all respects - from economic to political ... However, I will note in brackets that England was only a cover for the USA. Soon the US was again at war with the British. And then again collaborated closely.

No, it was not the kings who decided everything, but those who held the strings in their hands, pulling which it was possible to govern both kings and presidents.

And the "concern" of monarchical France about the Yankees was explained simply: an almost omnipotent *Someone* decided that in the long-term historical perspective a new powerful state should arise in the New World, which would eventually become a new, powerful, geographically invulnerable residence of the Golden Elite of the world.

That is, it was decided to create an "independent" United States.

But it is not for England itself to proclaim the independence of its colonies, which, even without independence, lived quite comfortably!

It turns out that it was necessary to portray the appearance of a struggle, but the candidates for independence themselves were not inclined to fight very much ... And they had to be supported by an ally from outside ...

Who could play such a role?

First-class (or at least for something suitable) military powers were at that time in the world - on the fingers to recalculate: England, France, Austria, Russia, Turkey, Spain, Prussia, perhaps even Sweden ...

Well, who from this list, except France, could be appointed by an almost omnipotent *Someone* to the role of an ally of the Yankees? Russia? She, on the contrary, was offered by the mouth of England to send the twenty thousandth

"liberation" and punitive corps. However, Catherine preferred to send away the petitioners themselves ...

Spain and the Netherlands, which fell into the formal "allies", did not really contribute much to America ...

So you don't have to think long to understand that only France was simply doomed to the role of an active friend of American freedom ... She played it, finally exhausting herself in this matter as monarchy.

Almost omnipotent *Someone* was quite happy with this, because it was time to deal with the French monarchy, which has already bothered not only *Someone*, but also Jacques the simpleton, crushed by it.

However, even the royal Versailles was determined to become the place of signing in 1783 of the American-English peace treaty recognizing the independence of the United States (its conditions, by the way, were worked out in secret not only from Spain and the Netherlands, but also from France).

It would seem a trifle, but "independence" was proclaimed not in any way, namely by 13 former colonies! As if it was impossible to either unite two of them, or separate one - which was quite feasible. So no - *someone* loved to observe the symbolism ...

Accordingly, over the American eagle from the dollar bill, not a little, but precisely 13 stars, lined up moreover in the form of a six-pointed star ...

And how many arrows are in the eagle's left paw?

And how many leaves are on the laurel branch in his right paw?

And how many buds are on this branch?

This is also all - for good reason!

Moreover, by launching the bald eagle on a long flight, its patrons - even before the States gained formal independence - secured good initial dividends from it. After all, French gold was not only spent by France, but also received *by Someone* !

The gunpowder burned out, the bayonets rusted, the uniforms decayed, the baggage horses died and the wine vapor evaporated. fumes after drinking soldiers' whiskey ...

But gold coins worth millions of livres have not disappeared, have they? They simply migrated from one pocket to another ... At the same time, the position of the new owners of these livres was strengthened, their old mistress, the French monarchy, was shaken, and in the New World, the new either five- or six-pointed American star ...:

And a little more about France ... The French American colony - Louisiana, the French had to cede to Spain in 1763, but Napoleon already at the beginning of his reign, in 1800, restored French jurisdiction over a vast and rich territory.

But not even three years had passed, and after the break of the Amiens peace with England, Napoleon quickly sold Louisiana to the United States for 80 million francs. Historians explain this poorly explainable (especially for the proud Bonaparte) step by the emperor's fear that otherwise the British would occupy Louisiana, but such an explanation is, in general, ridiculous.

But the fact that the sale agreement was signed on April 13 (symbols are symbols!) April 1803, clarifies the situation more. After all, even Napoleon was far from being as independent of supranational forces as it sometimes appears to the general public.

As a result, the American star shone over more and more of the vast New World.

And then the Russian emperor suddenly swung at the great future of this star with his Decree of September 4, 1821 ...

Yes, yes, business!

And here is another thing to keep in mind...

The "thunderstorm of the twelfth year" has died down, and it's time to reward the Russian soldier at least a medal - since they don't give "freestyle". Medals in the amount of 250 thousand pieces were minted and distributed ...

But the appearance of these medals was unusual for the Russian award tradition - there was no royal portrait on it. In fact, at first, the medal in memory of the Patriotic War was supposed to be made with a profile portrait of Emperor Alexander I. But, as A. Kuznetsov and N. Chepurinov tell us in the two-volume "Award Medal", "for some unknown reason, instead of this image, the medal was minted with the radiant "all-seeing eye" of the Almighty.

Oh, these "some" "unknown" reasons ...

In fact, the author of such a decision was? The sovereign's award is not a joke, not a trifle! "Unknown", nothing could pass unnoticed here! A medal hung on the chest of every Alexander soldier! And from every Russian soldier's chest, that same attentive eye looked at the Russian emperor, that looks at the world from a greenish dollar bill ...

True, the simple-minded Russian soldiers believed that this was the only eye of their beloved leader. Kutuzova surveys the ground.

But did the leader of that one-eyed leader think so too?

And on the reverse (back side) of the new medal there was also an inscription: "Not to us, not to us, but to the name yours"...

It is believed that these words are biblical ... And this is so. But it's actually still a Masonic motto, and at the same time - and the motto of the Templars-Templars, whose memory Freemasonry greatly honors as the memory of predecessors and spiritual brothers. And therefore, a small detail-medalka illuminates the entire history of Alexander's reign, perhaps, with a slightly different light.

Alexander was a patriot. And he strove for the power of Russia ... And in September 1821 he issued an undoubtedly patriotic and sovereignly significant "American" Decree ...

But there were too many events and facts in his life, and, accordingly, in his reign, ambiguous and strangely inconsistent ... And how often he relied not on patriots, but on self-seekers. And how often he wanted one thing, but did another ... And was the duality of nature the only reason for this?

Encouraged by the successes of RAC and supported by the enthusiasm of its directors, Alexander at first adopted the "American" Decree. Then he, obviously pulled back by someone, canceled this Decree ...

And even taking into account one such surrender of positions, the long-term fate of Russian America turned out to be under question...

Indeed, by his Decree, the tsar actually completed the creation of the eastern "face" of the Russian geopolitical space, and now it only remained to master it for real and strengthen it.

Refusal of the Decree was fraught with the most bad consequences.

And soon the situation became even more unpleasant and ominous sharpness ...

Alas, my dear reader, I again have to do one more thing, and - far from lyrical, retreat, without which it will not work.

What to do - after all, in the world everything is sometimes mixed up so that, only seeing the picture as a whole, only looking around the whole planet both in time and in space, one can understand what is otherwise understood difficult.

Well, for example, to understand that the external confusion of events and facts in the world of "golden" politics most often covers with itself a completely iron internal logic of powerful supranational forces ...

We were talking about the Russian emperor and Russian America, but we had to turn into the history of the formation of the United States ...

From it we seem to return again to Russia and the Russian emperor, and now we need to look into Spain in 1814, which had just freed itself from Napoleon, but fell under the power of the insignificant Ferdinand VII ...

Even before that, in 1810, the Spanish colonies in America began their struggle for independence ... Well, Latin Americans are hot people, so there were plenty of passions and fighters here. After all, we already know about the "forerunner" Francisco Miranda, and about Bolivar who adored him and betrayed him ...

And this struggle (by no means out of love for the freedom of peoples) was supported by both England and the United States.

Miranda was slowly dying in a Spanish prison in Cadiz... The troops of Bolivar, San Martin, Sucre occupied city after city in different parts of South America.

But even in Spain itself, King Ferdinand became hot ... In 1819, in the expeditionary force, prepared to be sent to suppress the rebellious colonies, an uprising of officers led by colonels Riego and Quiroga rises.

The 2nd Spanish bourgeois revolution begins (the 1st threw off the French in 1808-1814). Elections to the Cortes on March 1, 1822 give the majority to the radicals - exaltados, their leader Riego was elected president of the Cortes. The political struggle turns into an open civil war.

And in November 1822, the congress of the Holy Alliance meets in Verona ...

The Holy Alliance of monarchist Austria, Prussia and Russia was concluded on September 26, 1815 in Paris (France soon joined it). One of his goals was precisely to counter the revolutions, and in Verona it was decided to organize a "holy" crusade of the monarchies against Spain.

On April 7, 1823, in accordance with the decision of the Verona Congress, the French occupation army invades Spain. The revolution is crushed, Riego is solemnly hanged in Madrid... The French are making themselves at home in Spain...

The last assessment belongs not to me, but to the French historian of the 19th century, Antonin Debidour, to whom I give the floor below.

So: *"The Spanish War ... on the other hand, led to the final victory of the revolutionary principles in America, where Canning finally dealt an irreparable blow to the Holy Alliance ... Mexico, under the influence of the United States, reorganized its state structure along the lines of a federal republic."*

The Englishman George Canning would be more comfortable with a constitutional monarchy there, but he is with the Yankees in The question of the political system of Mexico did not compete, but entered into an agreement with them.

The French provoked Alexander into a hopeless project. They proposed to resolve the issue of the Spanish colonies within the framework of the Holy Alliance - so that these colonies "reconciled" with Ferdinand and as autonomous kingdoms were ruled either by the Spanish or the French.

Bourbon princes.

Personally, the project belonged (in any case, formally) to one of the three plenipotentiary representatives of France at the Verona Congress, Viscount Chateaubriand, a person not so much bright as having a high opinion of himself (immediately after Verona, he was appointed French Minister of Foreign Affairs).

Alexandra is here, as they say, the devil beguiled! Well, what does he care about the Spanish colonies when he has Did America have its own colonies? Did he have to play along with anyone here?

Moreover, his royal grandmother at one time almost supported the Latin American Miranda in his fight against Spanish rule in South America!

Alas, his commitment to the Holy Alliance played a cruel joke on the king, but I think that this was not decisive here. An ominous role was played by Foreign Minister Nesselrode, who increasingly took power in the Russian Foreign Ministry and increasingly confidently represented foreign affairs in Russia.

Let us assume for a moment that the Holy Alliance would really decide on an allied intervention in Latin America... Who would really send troops there then?

Spain Ferdinand? Once she was about to send them, but ran into large internal troubles.

France Louis XVIII? She devoted all her energy to the intervention in Spain. In words, the French Prime Minister Villele was ready to give Spain a transport fleet for the Spanish expeditionary forces, and almost soldiers, but all these were paper "wars".

Austria and Prussia? What did they have to do? In addition, they did not have the necessary fleet for this.

Russia remained, but Russia would hardly have really moved to such an unthinkable deed ...

It turned out that the project of Chateaubriand - Alexander was an empty idea, but he messed up Russia is far from empty.

So, Alexander (that is, Russia) "set himself up" ... Debidur writes:

This is how the famous "Monroe Doctrine" was born (then, however, they spoke of the "Monroe message"), which proclaimed that territories in the Western Hemisphere should not be considered "as an object for future colonization by any European power."

At first glance, Monroe came out in defense of only the "South American brothers." He even stressed: "We do not interfere and will never interfere in the affairs of existing colonies."

However, "his" doctrine, compiled by John Quincy Adams known to us (or maybe not even by him), had a second (if not the first) edge, directed both in real time and in the future at Russian America.

After all, the thesis "America for Americans" actually meant "America for the USA" and even "Not only America for the USA" ... And Monroe stubbornly spoke not about South America, which lies in the Eastern Hemisphere, but about the "Western Hemisphere".

Of course, English Canada also lay in this hemisphere, but Monroe took this fact out of brackets - with He was Canning's Britain at the same time... And the hint was clearly thrown at Russia then...

Actually, with Russia, with threats to Russian America, the States began back in 1821. Yes, and much

Previously, American behavior in the region was unambiguously anti-Russian. The story of the Spanish colonies just gave me a reason to show my teeth once again. At first glance - the whole of Europe, but in fact - Russia.

After all, by the time Monroe's message to Congress appeared, Russian-American status talks Russian possessions in America were, as they say, on the current agenda.

In these negotiations, it was quite possible for us to be tough. The Russian envoy to the United States, Baron Theil fan-Seroskerken, reported on December 9, 1823: *"The American treasury does not at all have the funds necessary for large weapons. In addition, it is highly doubtful that the government will be able to obtain permission to introduce sufficiently high taxes..."*

But, militarily still very weak in themselves, the North Americans felt the inescapable support of their true, that is, behind-the-scenes, "founding fathers." And so they behaved not by apparent force arrogantly.

"We must declare," Monroe broadcast, *"that we will look at any of them (members of the Holy Alliance. - S.K.) attempt to extend their political system to any country lying in this hemisphere, as a threat to our peace and our security ... If the allied powers wish to carry out their political system on one or another of the American continents, then they cannot achieve their goal without threatening our well-being and our tranquility ..."*

Let's try to think logically...

Today, that is, in 1823, the United States "according, as Monroe declared, with the principles of justice" came out in defense of the "independence" of the Spanish colonies in South America. (A little later, Adams and Bolivar even started to create a kind of union of the American republics, they gathered a congress in 1826 in Panama on this account.)

But a principle (and especially the "principle of justice") is a principle. And "according to" it, the United States had to be ready tomorrow to come out in support of the "independence" of the already Russian colonies in North America.

Is not it?

After all, American democracy is a serious matter ...

Later, already in the 60s of the XX century, Soviet academic sources claimed that the emergence of the Monroe Doctrine was not associated with the decree of 1821, but earlier, in volume 40 of the first TSB for 1938, it was directly noted that this doctrine was "initially opposed" in the second head "to the plans of the Holy Alliance to organize an intervention in America, where the former Spanish and Portuguese colonies separated from the metropolis", and in the first - "the claims of tsarist Russia, which then owned Alaska."

Like this!

Why are there "historians" of the Khrushchev Central Committee of the CPSU! Such an original clever man as Nikolai Yakovlevich Danilevsky, the author of the profound work "Russia and Europe", at a time when the ink had just dried on the Washington Treaty on the Cession of Russian America, wrote with obvious approval about the "simple and uncomplicated teaching", bearing the "glorious the name of Monroe's teaching (the old form of spelling "Monroe." — S.K.)", without seeing the anti-Russian aspect of this "glorious" teaching...

N-yes...

Still, we are simple in Russia even when we proclaim, like Danilevsky, that it would not hurt to Russia is for Russians, if America is for Americans.

However, it is possible that Nikolai Yakovlevich was not directly familiar with the text of Monroe's message and with paragraph seven of this message ... I myself did not learn about this tricky paragraph right away, but I will tell about it in chapter 11 "A little about historians and geopolitics" ...

The impudence of the Yankees was even greater because even then they impudently "attached" or prepared "attach" to itself one North American Spanish province after another.

The Indian nationalist Jawaharlal Nehru, in his "A Look at World History," written in English prisons for his daughter, Indira Gandhi, assessed the Monroe Doctrine precisely as an active nationalist who fought for the independence of his own homeland, and naively asserted: *"With the help of the Monroe Doctrine, the United States prevented intervention Europe in the affairs of Latin America.* However, Nehru was an honest man and an anti-imperialist. So he immediately added: *"But when they got rich, they began to look for new areas for external expansion. Their eyes, of course, turned primarily to Latin America.*

Nehru does not mention Russian America anywhere - for him it was the same third-rate fact of world history as for the authors of Soviet academic sources of the 60-80s (and, alas, for Danilevsky). But about South America, Indira Gandhi's father said everything is right ... So it was!

And the Yankees did not hesitate to claim US rights to any land in the Western Hemisphere in the most mocking style ... Let's say, referring to Cuba, Adams wrote in 1823 to the American ambassador in Spain that "these islands, in their location, are a natural appendage to the North American continent."

Islands as an appendage to *the continent* - this was something like a discovery in geographical science. But why not make it a member of the Moscow Society of Naturalists since 1810, Adams?

So he proved the legitimacy of his election to the "testers of nature", declaring also that, like an apple, "torn off by a storm from its native tree, it has no choice and can only fall to the ground", so Cuba, if it ceases to be Spanish, "may gravitate only to the mother's womb, to the North American continent.

Well, Newton from politics, and nothing more!

He also declared that the continent of North America should become the property of the Yankees, just as The Mississippi must flow to the sea.

In fact, even before Adams, in 1805, Secretary of State Madison "discovered" that Canada is a pear, which will fall into the US fold when it matures.

And after Adams, in 1869, the leader of the Republicans Seward (this one will impose on us in the teeth!) Compared Antilles with a plum ready to fall into the hands of the United States ...

That's how these "fruits" loved different delicious fruits!

But for the time being, the adamses and others refrained from comparing Russian America with any fruit or something else. They were very afraid - for the time being - that it would be most correct to compare it with a bomb if the United States wants to get this "fruit" for itself ...

But they insisted on one thing already then, they already achieved one thing - already from Alexander the Great ...

They got Russia's consent to an agreement that is humiliating for us.

And even two...

I ALREADY said that by the summer of 1822 Russia was actually forced to abandon the execution of the Decree of September 4th.

And on April 5 (17), 1824, Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Nesselrode, former envoy Russia in the USA Poletika and US envoy to Russia Henry Middleton signed in St. Petersburg the Russian-American convention "on friendly relations, trade, navigation and fishing."

Negotiations in some sources are defined as "short", but if they were, then only on the specific text of the convention. She herself was the result of a very long dispute that began back in 1808.

But I will talk about the convention in detail much later ...

By the way, I spoke above about two humiliating agreements. So, the second was the Anglo-Russian similar convention. But about her - in due time.

In the meantime, we have to make another "time loop" and return to the year 1808 and even go further - to the very beginning of the 19th century, and even further - to the end of the 18th century.

We need to look at that time because we are talking about the situation already in the twenties of the XIX century, but still have not figured out the origins and the initial period of Russian-American relations. At the same time, we will get acquainted with some of the circumstances of world history that are by no means weakly related to the topic.

So, the end of the 18th century ...

Official diplomatic relations between Russia and the United States had not yet been established. Francis Dane, who arrived with young Adams in Catherine's Petersburg on August 16 (27), 1781 as the first diplomatic representative of the American States, was unable to present credentials to the Empress and had the status of "a private person traveling to get acquainted with the country" ... Russia recognized the United States only de facto.

More successful was L. Harris, who arrived in Russia in the autumn of 1803 and on October 16 (28) recognized as an American consul.

In 1804, the correspondence between Alexander and President Jefferson began, and in the fall of 1807, Jefferson, through an envoy in London, Monroe (the same one), proposed to establish direct diplomatic relations.

In April 1808, Foreign Minister Nikolai Petrovich Rumyantsev (a RAC shareholder, by the way) informed Harris of the appointment of Andrei Yakovlevich Dashkov as Consul General in Philadelphia and Chargé d'Affaires at the US Congress. A year later, Fedor von der Pahlen was appointed the first Russian envoy extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the United States. On June 14 (26), 1810, he introduced himself to the President of the United States.

Even earlier, on November 5, 1809, the envoy John Quincy Adams presented the Russian emperor with those credentials that once Adams' chief, Francis Deyna, could not hand over to Alexander's grandmother.

At that time, Russia was the only great power truly loyal to the United States. Cause I understand this poorly, because the only zone where we touched, namely, the Russian part Pacific Ocean, was clearly a zone of conflict through the fault of exclusively American subjects.

But for some reason Petersburg saw in America—for all its military weakness at the time—a kind of

England's rival. In 1810 instructions to Palen, Count Rumyantsev wrote that it was in American interests *"if not to put a limit on the pernicious despotism carried out by Great Britain at sea, then at least to limit it" ...*

At that time, for the fourth year in a row, we had been waging a purely naval and rather symbolic war with England. But even with this in mind, Rumyantsev's hopes for the United States look strange ... By the time his instructions were written, the American fleet was simply pathetic - his pride was the forty-six-gun Essex built in 1799 ... Plus gunboats to protect the coast ... And with such forces, trying to at least limit the sea Britain's "despotism"?

Here Rumyantsev clearly made a mistake, as did his royal boss himself. However, Russia was invariably friendly to the United States, having in response from America sustained in the best democratic traditions, but still restrained gratitude in words and black ingratitude in deeds. The Yankees tried to behave in our American possessions as if they were on their own (then, by the way, not very large) territory. Hence the friction, and disputes over violations by American subjects

the rights of Russian subjects.

However, there were plans for joint trade ... By the beginning of the 19th century, the United States imported goods to one and a half million dollars. Something they, of course, and exported.

The initiative of Russia's trade relations directly with the United States should be given, perhaps, to the merchant Xenophon Alekseevich Anfilatov. In 1806, he received a loan of 200 thousand rubles from the government and equipped two ships overseas (domestic, by the way, built). One crashed near Reval (Estonians now call it Tallinn). The second brought rum, coffee, cocoa, sandalwood, cloves, pepper, granulated sugar, chocolate, laurel, cinnamon, indigo and some other little things from the States ...

I ask you to pay attention to the composition of these products, a good two-thirds of which were clearly re-export, and all - "colonial" and not industrial.

Further, things did not work out for Anfilatov, but the Yankees themselves began to send their ships to Arkhangelsk and set up their offices there ...

In March 1810, the first American ship came from Baltimore to the port of Odessa, about which General the Governor of the Novorossiysk Territory, the Duke of Richelieu, reported to the Minister of Commerce Rumyantsev.

By 1811, active trade was already underway, in which Francis Deyna, Jr., vice consul in Arkhangelsk, also participated. This year, 150 American-flagged ships received permission to enter Russian ports, but in fact there were even more of them, because some of the American ships sailed under the flags of other countries. Already!

US exports reached \$6.1 million. The amount at that time is very decent.

But taking into account the "Anfilatov's list" it needs clarification... Let's say, at about the same time, the States brought goods worth \$1.6 million to Brazil. The United States was then predominantly an agrarian country, Brazil a purely agrarian one. Therefore, the volume of US exports to it was small, but even more than half of it consisted of manufactured goods of European origin.

For the United States, this was a traditional focus, and it even had its own name - "triangular trade" ...

It was started by New England merchants as early as the 18th century. They made their profit from the fact that they exported rum and "African iron" (all sorts of little things, etc.) to the ports of the Gulf of Guinea, bought slaves for them, brought them to the West Indies, sold or exchanged slaves for sugar and molasses, and then returned with this cargo to New England in order to expel rum from molasses and sugar for the next

shuttle tour...

That is, in the case of Russia, it was in many respects the same "triangular" trade, only in the European version. In 1811, the cost of re-exported goods that the Americans resold to Russia exceeded the cost of American-made goods by 2.8 times!

At the same time, the structure of exports is also indicative: cotton, sugar, coffee ... The goods, I repeat, are purely "colonial"...

But Russia supplied overseas not only traditional flax and hemp, but also manufactured goods - high-quality Ural iron, manufactory, marine gear. America was industrially underdeveloped. And even weaker were its armed forces at the beginning of the century.

strength.

Lacking a genuine military spirit and serious fighting traditions, the Yankees did not believe in the strength of Russia either. John Quincy Adams, who was in St. Petersburg, reported to Secretary of State Monroe in May 1811 about the impending Franco-Russian war, and in August he already considered it inevitable.

On October 11, 1811, he wrote to Monroe in Washington: *"Given the information of the French ambassador to Russia that there are no capable generals in the Russian army, and based on the predictions of the thinking people of Russia, it can be concluded that Russia will lose the war."*

A Yankee from Bordeaux, a certain Lee, the American Consul General there, had no doubts about this.

And since the spring of 1812, the US weekly "Weekly Register" has constantly given such information that none of the readers had even a shadow of doubt about the imminent collapse of Russia.

With the outbreak of war, things got even worse... Our envoy Dashkov reported that the National Intelligencer's officialdom "usually rewrites articles unfriendly towards us from foreign newspapers..."

Such was the initial period of our "friendship" with America! And is it possible to imagine a different development of relations between the United States - the future Empire of Evil, and the eternal bearer of the ideas of Good - Russia?

The victory over Napoleon raised the world significance of Russia, of course. And in March 1813 Monroe - then Secretary of State, accepted Alexander's offer to mediate Russia in ending the Anglo-American "war" of 1812-1814 (the reason for putting quotation marks here by me will become clear to the reader after I talk about this "war").

England rejected our mediation, but objectively the position of Russia contributed to the conclusion 24 December 1814 Peace Treaty of Ghent.

What did we have in return?

And here's what...

EVEN at the time of Shelikhov and Rezanov, illegal activity of American merchants began to grow in Russian America (we called them "Bostonians"). They mercilessly beat the fur-bearing animal and briskly carried on the "triangular trade" already in the Alaskan-Aleut version ...

The "triangle" here turned out like this: "whiskey - furs - Chinese gold" ... In other words, the "Bostonians" interrupted our fur trade with the natives of our American possessions, paid them with whiskey, guns, gunpowder, lead, inciting them to rise up against the Russians and RAK, and then they took the furs to Canton, where they resold it to the Chinese with great profit. Part of the proceeds went to new whiskey and new gunpowder.

This is what the RAC reported in the "Most Submissive Report" already mentioned by me much higher

Alexander dated July 29 (August 10), 1802, according to the words of the chief ruler of the colonies, Baranov:

Nikolai Petrovich Rumyantsev, in an official note to Consul Harris dated May 17 (29), 1808, proposed to settle the situation and conclude a special convention, but negotiations on this subject in both capitals

ended up with nothing...

In fact, another Nikolai Petrovich - Rezanov even earlier proposed a different solution to the problem: to establish a military-commercial fleet, force out the "Bostonians" by force and ensure the Russian monopoly on the fur trade with the Chinese.

Let me remind you that he also offered to create a powerful Russian Pacific squadron, conclude an alliance with Spain (this was even before its annexation by Napoleon) and dominate the northern (that is, Russian) part Pacific Ocean.

I think that the implementation of Rezanov's ideas could have provided a different outcome of the negotiations in 1808. But - alas ... Rezanov, as we know, strangely and suddenly died in Krasnoyarsk.

And in Russian America, the "triangular trade" of the "Bostonians" continued to flourish.

The intransigence of official Washington had an unofficial, but quite real background. By 1800, John Jacob ((John-Jacob) Astor, a double native, took the leading position in the American fur trade: first from Germany, where he was born in 1763 into a poor family in the Walldorf near Heidelberg, to England, and then from there to America .

In England, under the guidance of his older brother, he mastered the craft of making musical instruments, and in America, on his own, the craft of successful land speculation. Then switched to fur.

When he retired from business in 1834, he sold his American Fur Company for \$20 million—an outrageous sum in those days! And in order to later possess it, Jacob Astor, from the beginning of the 19th century, credited the American government at frantic interest rates.

Well, could this government agree to a convention with the Russians recognizing their legal rights in damage to Astor's illegal "rights"?

Astor, however, climbed into the Pacific fur trade

us and untruths. And here he was greatly assisted by the transcontinental expedition of the captains (not sea, but land) Meriwether Lewis and William Clark.

Astor did not equip her - he was not a man of the leaven of Rezanov or Buldakov, but a cosmopolitan, a tumbleweed. Funding for the expedition in the amount of two and a half thousand dollars was obtained from Congress by Jefferson. Lewis was one of his secretaries.

But Astor took full advantage of the results of Lewis and Clark.

The purpose of the expedition of 1804-1806 was to search for a land passage through the North American continent to the Pacific Ocean, to those places where the mysterious "river of the West" Columbia, discovered by the St. John's wort captain Gray, flowed.

That is, when the Russians were already mastering the western American coast of this ocean with might and main, when the Russian Novo-Arkhangelsk was already smoking chimneys on the island of Sitka, the United States had just been able to look for a passage to this coast.

On May 14, 1804, an expedition of forty-three men left St. Louis, located near the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers / up the Missouri to its sources. Crossing the Rocky Mountains, she came to the Snake River, which flows into Columbia.

In November 1805, Lewis and Clark reached the Pacific Ocean and wintered at the mouth of the Columbia in that a deserted place where modern Astoria later arose. This is approximately 46 degrees north latitude.

Restless (oh, everything would be so!) Rezanov even earlier suggested that St. Petersburg occupy the mouth of Columbia, and later the leadership of the RAC unsuccessfully tried to do the same. And I must say that we then had much more forces for such a thing than the Americans. They had to slurp four thousand kilometers to the ocean - and not jelly, but heavy sweat - on dry land, through the mountains! And it was easy for us to get to these places along the ocean itself. And from Novo-Arkhangelsk there was nothing at all - about six hundred miles!

In 1806 the American Expedition returned to St. Louis and its return became national holiday, and at the same time - and the basis for US claims to the Far West, to Oregon.

In March 1811, Astor's Pacific Fur Company trading post was founded there, naturally named Astoria. True, the Anglo-American war prevented Astor's geshefts, but in the end Astoria, temporarily occupied by the British, went back to the States in 1818.

Well, we will not argue here - this degree of northern latitude was mastered by the Americans. But they persist and shamelessly climbed beyond the Russian American degrees - including Astor ...

RAK tried to negotiate with him amicably - it did not work out. Imprisoned in 1812 for four years privately, the RAC agreement with Astor turned out to be an empty piece of paper and was not renewed ...

Fort Ross was founded in 1812.

In 1815 the Russians occupied Paris.

In 1819, the "era of Baranov" ended in Russian America.

In 1821, a decree was passed on September 4th.

In 1822, an actual cross was put on the decree, but legally it still existed ...

And it was necessary to somehow officially regulate what was impossible in practice, if do not use Russian force.

HOWEVER, how lucky the Russian cause in America at the beginning of the 19th century was for intelligent and devoted to Russia people from the business environment - Baranov and Kuskov alone were worth something! - we were just as unlucky with the majority of Russian diplomatic representatives among the Yankees ...

No luck, starting with the very first of them - Fedor von der Palen.

Fedor Palen was the son of Peter-Ludwig (Peter Alekseevich) Palen. And the father, being the favorite and confidant of Emperor Paul, at the same time managed to become the head of a conspiracy against Paul. As "Brockhaus and Efron" sparingly noted, Palen, together with the Zubovs, "was present at the death of Paul I" ... That's for sure - "was present"!

Fedor was born in 1780, as a teenager he was enrolled in the Horse Guards Regiment, but soon from it went out and went along the diplomatic line: embassies in Sweden, France, England ...

In England, he lingered, and, it seems to me, for good reason ... His father had long been associated with England. And he is bound firmly, reliably - by the blood of Emperor Paul. Could the son not repeat the ideological path of his father? Think - hardly...

Yes, although the story with all these Palens is old and muddy, it seems to me that the duplicity of the father and his connections with supranational forces were passed on by relay and to the son.

An interesting detail ... On the way to America, Palen stayed in Paris for six months - according to sources, "due to the unresolved issue of appointing an American envoy to Russia."

The explanation is obscure ... After all, Adams arrived in the Russian capital six months earlier than Palen - to the American.

But - is it so, otherwise, the Russian envoy to America blabbed for half a year in Paris ... What he did there, I don't know. But I know (he himself said this) that, thinking in the "capital of the world" about his future service, he came to the conclusion that the beginning of "a fatal era of the decline of Europe and new opportunities for America, which is awakening from a lethargic sleep (this is about active Yankees?! - S.K.) and will rise on our ruins."

The prognosis is brilliant! Now Zbigniew Brzezinski explicitly declares that the US New World Order created at the expense of Russia and on the ruins of Russia.

So - cheers for Fedor Palen, long before Oswald Spengler, no later than November 14 (26), 1809 considering the "decline of Europe"?! After all, the Horse Guardsman Palen foresaw everything a good century before him!

But how could Palen, who was not distinguished by either a special mind and education, or a penchant for deep reflection, and even without spending a single day in the country of his future stay, could be capable of such a deep geopolitical analysis, such prophetic intuitions, that where is there note thinkers?

Did the atmosphere of the "capital of the world", beneficial for reflection on the fate of the world, really help?

N-yes!

But speaking seriously, my dear reader, I will say that all this strange six-month delay sounds like Palen's thorough treatment and briefing before his American mission...

In his strangely "prescient" note, Palen predicted the future independence of the Spanish colonies in South America (which became a fact much later), the weakening of Spain, the future weakening of France, the "long and destructive" wars involving Germany and Poland, and also the future triumph of "mighty nature America, free from any oppression, over decrepit, fading Europe "...

Moreover, in his note there is neither anxiety for the fate of his own homeland - Russia, nor reflections about what role is prepared for her in such a future world, nor any ideas about how to provide her with a place among future world powers that she deserves, that is, first-class ... In this note, in general there is no word "Russia"!

But these were the thoughts of a man heading to a foreign country, which delighted him so much in absentia, as an official diplomatic representative of his country! Could one count on the fact that he would represent his homeland overseas proudly and with dignity?

No, his note resembles a student essay, which does not present its own conclusions, but diligently repeats what the mentor has just said. I think it was as a result of skillful "mentoring" that our failed horse guard was imbued with the ideas of the future "greatness" of America ... And imbued so strongly that he foolishly thumped about what he should have kept silent about ...

And it is very likely that the tasks for Palen were set not only (and not so much) by Count Rumyantsev, but also by *Someone else* ... This von der Palen very mediocresly spent his American, and other years, and could only boast of the fact that in 1829, at the conclusion of the Adrianople peace treaty between Russia and Turkey, he contributed to the opening of the Black Sea straits not only for Russians, but also for American shipping.

Already the first, in fact, American report of Palen dated June 18 (30), 1810 bears the imprint of the uncritical view of the first Russian envoy on the host country. The Count wrote: "*Republican*

simplicity strikes a person accustomed to the splendor of European courtyards, but when you see true dignity behind this simplicity, you easily get used to it.

True dignity exists only in a truly noble person. But Madison, Smith and nobility? Their fellow citizens and nobility? No, Palen looked at the United States clearly through blue glasses!

He represented Russia both stupidly and not for long. Soon he was replaced by the same Andrei Yakovlevich Dashkov, who was our official representative until the summer of 1817 (then, due to a crisis in our relations, he was officially recalled, although he actually acted as head of the mission until 1819).

So, Palen did not stay in America for long and in February 1812 he left her ... Together with him he left her then Peter Poletika was an adviser to the Russian diplomatic mission ...

Pyotr Ivanovich Poletika was two years older than Palen, but, coming from a low family, he was subordinate to him ... Poletika was also a member of the literary "Arzamas" - under the name "Charmed member."

The well-known memoirist Philipp Philippovich Vigel speaks of him (as well as of Palen) very kindly: "full of honor and straightforwardness", "he was loved and respected by everyone, he himself did not feel hatred for anyone", etc. And the same Vigel reports that this career diplomat "was obsessed

strong Englishmania.

Like - Palen ...

Like Father Palen...

Poletika returned to the States in 1819 - already an envoy, replacing Dashkov. Like Palen, the gap between his appointment to the post and the appearance in this post was strangely large: he was appointed in November 1817, and did not arrive in the United States until April 1819. The crisis in relations that knocked Dashkov's envoy out of his chair clearly had nothing to do with it. The crisis was in the summer, and already in the autumn Poletika was appointed. But here, too, was in no hurry ...

The beginning of the second period of his activity in America was also strange for the Russian diplomatic representative. Being an experienced diplomat who knew the then diplomatic world well, Poletika used his influence in diplomatic circles to promote the ratification by Spain of the Adams-Onís Treaty, which was important for ... the United States (but not for Russia).

This treaty, signed in Washington on February 22, 1919 by our friend Adams and the Spanish envoy Luis Onís, formalized the seizure of the Spanish colonies of West and East Florida by General Andrew Jackson, the future 7th President of the United States.

The treaty moved US territory westward, toward Oregon, toward the Pacific Ocean (in particular, it demarcated Spanish possessions in Mexico and territory claimed by the US). And already with this, the Adams-Onís treaty was harmful for Russia.

Well, actually! Why was it necessary to resolve the conflict, which gave us the opportunity blockade with Spain against US Pacific claims and strengthen the position of Fort Ross?

In addition, the Washington Treaty of 1919 paved the way for the United States to Oregon, to the Pacific coast.

But Poletika worked hard, calmed down passions, and exactly two years after the signing - to the same day - the Spanish-American treaty was ratified. And here Poletika acted directly against Russian interests!

But after the issuance of the Decree of September 4, he "persuaded" Washington so that the complications caused by the Russian decree were resolved by Russia's refusal of its legal decision. Apparently, the "Russian" envoy was not up to securing the rights of Russia in Russian America - all the ardor went into securing American rights to expand the territory of the United States.

Having ideologically "surrendered" our rights and legally defended the rights of the United States, Poletik was recalled on April 25, 1822, and upon arrival in St. Petersburg, he was appointed authorized to negotiate with the United States and England on conflict issues in our American zone ...

RUSSIAN foreign policy after the Napoleonic wars was generally a confusing matter. Counts, that Alexander himself is to blame.

Well, the ion is not without fault ...

Well, let's say, the expression "ministerial leapfrog" refers to the last years of the reign of Nicholas the Last ... However, Alexander arranged something cleaner in his foreign ministry, one time engaged in replicating foreign ministers.

At the beginning, from September 8, 1802 to January 16, 1804, the Foreign Ministry was headed by the Angloman Count Vorontsov, known to us. The first TSB presents the Vorontsov brothers almost as liberals, supporters of a constitutional monarchy and reports that the nickname "Angloman" was stuck to them by the environment of the Zubov brothers.

However, in reality, the brothers loved in the English political system only a sharp restriction of the rights of the king, but by no means the granting of certain rights and freedoms to the "common people" ... The brothers loved themselves, and Russia - as it was necessary ...

Vorontsov was replaced by Angloman prince Adam Czartoryski (Czartoryski). We will meet with him again, and here I will say that Vigel, who had no dealings with the Zubovs, testifies: many openly called the prince-minister, a "follower of the English system, a traitor ...

On June 17, 1806, the traitor prince was dismissed, and a little more than a year - until August 30, 1807, Andrei-Gothard Yakovlevich Budberg was the minister. But in parallel with him, from March to June 1807, Prince Alexander Nikolaevich Saltykov was also the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

After them, for seven turbulent years, the fifty-three-year-old Prince Nikolai Petrovich Rumyantsev is a man known both to the reader, and to Russia, and to Europe ...

But just the scale of Rumyantsev and his line did not suit the tsar, and he often conducted his foreign policy not through the minister, but personally. And this situation, of course, only confused, but did not clarify. However, the European situation itself was then so unstable (after all, it was the height of the Napoleonic epic) that Alexander did not dare to continue the line of "glove" ministers and tolerated Rumyantsev.

But even then he brought Karl-Robert Nesselrode closer to him, introducing him from August 1812 into leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Secretary of State.

Napoleon fell, and by the beginning of 1814, the Russian Foreign Ministry had, in fact, four (!) Chiefs: the minister (until August 1, 1814) Rumyantsev, then Nesselrode, "reporting on all matters of the foreign department" and, besides them, - Ivan Andreyevich Veydemeyer, "Chief of the Collegium of Foreign Affairs" and Count John Kapodistrias (Capo d'Istria), Secretary of State, "Chief of Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs."

From August 9, 1816, for forty (!!) years, until April 15, 1856, Nesselrode becomes minister. However, from April 1819 to 1825 (and formally longer - until May 1837!) He also had to share power with Konstantin Konstantinovich Rodofinikin.

Yes, many people were dizzy from all this - both inside Russia and outside it ...

But who is to blame - Alexander?

Well, I have already admitted that it is impossible to remove the blame from the king ...

However, is it worth losing sight of the guilt of that Russian elite, which was Russian only in name. Someone was not even formally Russian - because of their national roots, like the Czartoryski, Potocki, Nesselrode, Palena. Someone could not be called Russian by complete indifference to the land that raised him - as was the case with a whole series of idle aristocrats, all sorts of Zubovs, Vorontsovs, Novosiltsevs, Kochubeevs and others ...

Count Kochubey was Minister of the Interior from 1802 to 1807, and I will again refer to Vigel: "Lord Kochubey, who had been growing stronger at court for five years ... seemed to be the first minister ... At first they were amazed, finally they began to attribute to witchcraft a rapid and extraordinary increase in his fortune ... Out of two thousand not so big souls, he suddenly grew to twenty ... There were rumors about his close ties with Peretz, with Stieglitz, Jewish millionaires, who, under his patronage, had in their hands important branches of state revenues ... "

Philipp Philippovich Vigel, although he was slanderous, his assessments of the highest dignitaries can be, as usually trust. And in the part of Kochubey, he reported everything correctly (we will see this later).

Among the negative assessments of Alexander, there is such a "wandering despot" ... After the Parisian triumph of 1815, the emperor really moved a lot, he was in Europe for a long time, away from Russia...

But didn't he run away from all these "unspoken" "friends" and advisers - and self-serving ones like Kochubey and dull-smart type Spersky?

Not being able, not having internal strength to rely on real patriots (and there were enough of them in the illustrious childbirth, and, moreover, in circles of the unborn!), even here he turned out to be inconsistent and contradictory.

And instead of fighting, looking for, finding and appointing the Russian representative in the negotiations on Russian America, say, the twenty-seven-year-old patriot Kondraty Ryleev, or putting the cards in the hands of such a connoisseur of Yankee shamelessness as Andrey Dashkov, who "exchanged" his forties, the tsar authorized to negotiate with the cosmopolitan Petr Poletik...

Alas, it is the cosmopolitan ...

There was one interesting detail in the BIOGRAPHY of Peter Poletika. Even under Palen, on the eve of his first departure from the United States, he established contacts with the American Philosophical Society, the oldest and most prestigious scientific society in the United States.

The core of the society, founded in 1743 in Philadelphia with the active assistance of Benjamin Franklin, was a club with the eloquent name of the Leather Apron Club. In other words, the core of the recorded American "philosophers" were Freemasons (they were members of the society and the father and son of Adams).

It was with such "philosophers" that Poletik made acquaintance. Becoming a Russian envoy to the United States, he strengthened it, and shortly before his second departure from Washington, on January 18, 1822, he was elected a member of this elite American "apron" club.

Foreign members were then innumerable in it ... Let's say, from

Russians before Poletika, a friend of Catherine the Great and the president of the Russian Academy of Sciences Ekaterina Dashkova, the famous academician Pyotr Pallas, the founder of the Rumyantsev circle, Count Nikolai Rumyantsev, and Ivan Kruzenshtern, well known to us, were elected members of the society ... Just something -

four people, each of whom entered Russian history in a first-class way!

By the time Poletika was elected, only the last two were alive, so Poletika was honored very rare and high.

For what?

Oh yes! He was the "Charmed member" in Arzamas!

But in general, they hardly knew about this in America ... And, presumably, Peter Poletika was accepted into the honorary "aprons" not for his talent for Russian literature.

And - not for diplomatic talents or out of respect (ha!) for Russia. After Peter Ivanovich Russian envoys were not elected members of the AFO ...

As before ... Although the same Andrei Yakovlevich Dashkov deserved this honor much more, if you stand on the positions of developing friendship between peoples and countries.

Poletika knew the Masonic "philosophers", establishing "cultural" (yes, ha!) ties with the Yankees, but Rumyantsev's protégé (and corresponding member of the RAC, by the way) Dashkov established economic ties and considered the delivery of in Russia

Whitney cotton gin.

But here, he did not receive an apron. Perhaps because, in addition to a peaceful vehicle, Berry also managed to transport to his homeland a multi-charged naval gun, which was used on American frigates during the Anglo-American war.

Poletika, on the other hand, has established himself as a person who has an ingratiating sympathy for America. Therefore, taking into account his status as a Yankee, it was necessary to cherish and cherish this sympathy of the envoy ... Here it's not a pity to give an AFO membership apron!

The reputation of Poletiki was also raised differently ... When he arrived in the USA already as an envoy, Russian American relations were complicated by the arrest in 1815 of our Consul General in Philadelphia, Nikolai Yakovlevich Kozlov. I know very little about him, but judging by his reports to Rumyantsev, he was an intelligent, honest and modest patriot, just like his colleague Dashkov.

Kozlov and Dashkov "spoiled" relations with the Yankees, but Poletika immediately "improved" them. Well, why not distinguish the Russian Foreign Ministry such a master of diplomacy!

Having appeared in the Russian capital, Poletika rolled up his sleeves, tied himself with a brand new "philosophical" apron and rushed into negotiations on the status of the Bering Sea ...

I REMIND the reader that Alexander's Decree of September 4, 1821 prohibited foreign ships from free navigation at a distance closer than 190 kilometers from the Russian Pacific coast in the zone from 51 degrees north latitude in America to 45 degrees 50 seconds north latitude in Northeast Asia.

Foreign trade was also prohibited in this zone.

As already mentioned, by shifting our southern Pacific border four degrees lower - from 55 degrees to 51 degrees, we may have grabbed the "surplus".

But it wasn't all stupid either!

What could Russia concede during the negotiations? Yes, that's just it! It was possible to increase the degree of the southern border, returning to the boundary of the 55th degree, and thereby lower the "degree" of the temperature of mutual relationship...

Well, it was still possible to agree to the issuance of licenses to American industrialists, provided severe penalties for their violation.

But what Russia - after the negotiations of Peter Poletika with US envoy Henry Middleton - agreed...

However, first a few words about Middleton. He came to us in the autumn of 1820, but only on June 17, 1821 was he accredited. The American had to be patient, and he was patient, because the Yankees can be very reserved and courteous when they get into a difficult situation **for themselves** ...

And it was really difficult for the United States - not getting along with England, they got involved with it in a war that lasted from 1812 to 1814 (and even 1815) and during which Astoria Astora, for example, temporarily became the English Fort George ...

A little later I will have an occasion to tell the reader about this "war" something that cannot but interest him. I myself was surprised when I found out how hard it was for the Yankees at one time during her ... And I was even more surprised when I found out how well everything ended for them!

Prior to Middleton, less than two years, George Washington Campbell, a Scot by birth, was the envoy in St. Petersburg. Nothing particularly noteworthy was noted about his mission, but one way or another I could not say anything bad about him, just because in St. Petersburg, fifty-year-old Campbell experienced a terrible personal tragedy - during a typhus epidemic, he lost three of his four children.

And before Campbell, the United States in Russia was represented by one of the members of the Pinckney clan of politicians, William Pinckney. He arrived in the Russian capital on the eve of the Russian New Year - December 26, 1816, and was given a defiantly friendly reception. Russia kept hoping for support (I would like to know - with what exactly?) of the United States in the context of the conflict with England.

So, I can't say anything definite about Pinckney either, because the Russian Foreign Office itself could not say anything definite about him. In a review note of State Secretary Ivan Kapodistria dated December 19 (31), 1818 on the United States of America and Pinckney it was said like this:

"Since 1815, their government has maintained complete silence regarding us. Mr. Pinkney was sent to St. Petersburg. He stayed there for almost two years, but had no explanation with the imperial ministry. He didn't even show the slightest desire for it."

But how they met!

Kapodistrias further wrote:

It is sad and amusing that Kapodistrias overlooked the fact that in any case this restraint was **characteristic!** Characteristic for the United States in the sense that the feeling of gratitude and sincerity is not organically characteristic of US politicians (since the time of the "founding fathers" they have been building their careers on lies and hypocrisy and living on hypocrisy). And Kapodistrias intended to induce the envoy of the United States "to go to a frank and sincere explanation."

But, shaken by personal losses, Campbell went home in the summer of 1820. And he was replaced by Middleton.

The original goal of Middleton's mission was to obtain from Russia a favorable solution for the United States in their dispute with England over the interpretation of the Treaty of Ghent (I already mentioned it) ... Middleton, by the way, stayed at his post in St. Petersburg until August 1830 - longer than any other American representative in Russia.

So, Alexander's arbitration was in favor of America. On April 22, 1922, according to the Russian style, he made a decision, on the basis of which a tripartite convention was adopted two months later, and in 1826 year - the Anglo-American convention.

It would seem that the moment for presenting an account to the States and waiting for them to understand the Russian position in the sphere of our American interests was more than favorable.

But here's what actually happened...

On April 5 (17), 1824, Nesselrode, Poletika and Middleton signed a convention according to which Russia refused to advance south of 54 ° 40 north latitude in the direction of Oregon (the status of Fort Ross was not stipulated).

Well, so far everything was acceptable... But was it worthy of a great power that it agreed to allow for 10 years the freedom of foreign navigation, trade and crafts **within its possessions!**

In fact, it was the legalization of American poaching, uncontrolled excesses and subversive anti-Russian activities in the territorial Russian waters and on the Russian coast.

The Americans even got the right to launch raking hands into Russian Asia!

In broad daylight, without suffering any defeat from the United States and without fear of such a threat, in the rank of the winner of the great Napoleon, the Russian Empire allowed the Yankees to rob themselves, if not on a large scale. road, then on the Great, Great Ocean ...

Fig leaves in the form of the provisions of the convention on the "unconditional prohibition of the importation of alcoholic beverages, weapons and military equipment" and the US law of May 19, 1828 to punish offenders this "ban" did not change anything in what was happening.

In 1825, the same Poletika also prepared a Russian-English convention. England received on it even more preferential than the United States, the conditions of navigation and trade. The 1825 Convention gave English ships the right "forever (! - S.K.) to sail freely ... on all rivers and streams that, flowing into the Pacific Ocean, cross the demarcation line" within a narrow coastal strip north of 54 ° 40 north latitude.

One thing was good about this second convention - it established the line of demarcation between Russian and English possessions in America along the line along which the border between Alaska and Canada runs to this day. We didn't really need British recognition of our American borders, but still ...

Although even here, in the opinion of some smart Russian people, Russia has yielded unjustifiably much. So, for example, Major General Vandamme, the original Russian geopolitician, thought at the beginning of the 20th century.

But in general, the two conventions were two acts of capitulation of Russia. So far - not complete and unconditional, however - very real and significant.

RAK and circles close to it protested, but to no avail. Conventions by Russia were "ratified"...

When both conventions expired, the Yankees and Britons, in spite of mutual claims in Oregon, in close unity nava

poured on RAK even harder and bolder. But this was already the era of Nicholas I, about which we still there will be a separate conversation and story ...

Poletika, after the conclusion of the conventions, received the rank of privy councilor and the title of senator. In 1826 he anonymously (!) in London (?) published one of the first European books about the USA. In the same year it was re-released, but for some reason not in Russia? and - in America ... As if in the USA they did not know what

represent the USA!

Y-yes ... This was our Russian America's "Russian" official defender ...

WHY we backpedaled instead of rationally exacerbating the situation, I can't understand! We had everything in order, on the basis of the strange claims of the Anglo-Saxons, to finally strengthen our naval forces in the Pacific and close the Bering Sea not only with a stroke of the imperial pen, but also with the Russians.

border maritime patrols...

Today, the US Navy is the most powerful and aggressive in the world. But almost two hundred years ago, the States were a predominantly agricultural country, and industry was not exactly developed. In 1810, 31 percent of the value of all industrial output in the United States came from the textile industry, 14 percent from the leather industry, 13 percent from the distillery, and only 11.2 percent from the iron industry. But a sheet of iron cost much more than a dressed calfskin.

The United States then, at the beginning of the 19th century, had a qualitatively different appearance compared to the current one. And to Anglo American War of 1812-1815, the US Navy was more than weak. Only according to the programs of 1813-1816, the first 10 battleships were built, which covered the Atlantic, but by no means the Pacific, basin.

In 1815, the American Robert Fulton's steam-wheeled ship Demologos began guarding New York Harbor, and it was not until 1844 that the first propeller-driven ship, the Princess, was built in the United States with the propellers of the Swede Erickson.

In Russia, the first steamboat also appeared in 1815. It was built in St. Petersburg at the first Russian Gutuevsky foundry and mechanical plant by the Russified Englishman Charles Byrd, who came to us in 1776 and worked hard both for the good of his new homeland and for his own. Until 1825 Byrd's plant built 11 steamships and up to 130 steam engines.

In 1818, the state-owned Izhora Plant gave the Baltic Fleet the Skory steamship with a 32-power engine, and in 1832, the Hercules military steamer, on which for the first time in the world a steam engine without a balancer of 240 forces was installed (the leaders in this business are the British were able to do the same only in 1837 on the steamer "Gorgon", after unsuccessful attempts in 1822 and 1826).

And the Russian fleet received the first screw frigate "Archimedes" with a machine of 300 forces in 1848. (I note that by that time in England, the commercial iron screw Great Britain with a displacement of 3000 tons and a machine of 1000 forces and the military Retler with a machine of 200 forces were operated, and in France in 1847 they laid the screw battleship "Napoleon" displacement of 5288 tons with a car of 900 forces.)

But in the USA, large ships were not built even in the second half of the 19th century (only by the end of the 80s the first steel cruisers "Atlanta", "Boston" and "Chicago" appeared).

However, until the fifties, everything was decided by the sailing fleet. And here we were quite on the level, and we had nothing to fear from serious opposition from the Yankees at sea.

True, someone familiar with the history of the American frigate Essex may object to me. But Let's take a look at this story...

Essex was built in 1799, had a displacement of 860 tons, a crew of 300 people and 46 guns. At the time, nothing special.

During the war with England, in March 1813, this already very old ship for the first time in the history of the American fleet rounded Cape Horn and began cruising in the area of the Galapagos Islands (almost on the equator) in order to prevent English merchant shipping in the Pacific Ocean. Essex captured

several merchant ships and 12 whaling ships, which, according to the Dictionary of American History, led to the destruction of the English industry and laid the foundation for the subsequent flourishing of the American whaling industry.

I will note in brackets that by the 40s of the 19th century it really flourished - the American whaling fleet consisted of 594 ships, while all other countries had 230. And it seems to me that the actions of one frigate could not in any way intimidate for decades (!) the most powerful maritime power. Most likely, the patrons of the United States saw in the development of whaling in the United States a convenient way to strengthen the United States economically. Ambergris, spermaceti, whalebone, oil for lighting - it was then a gold mine ... And the whales were simply kindly "conceded" to the Americans.

Actually, is it possible to doubt the above, if you know the end of the story with the Essex ... The "everything and frightening" frigate was blocked on February 8, 1814 in the Chilean port of Valparaiso by the English frigate "Phoebe" (36 guns) and the sloop "Chereb" (26 guns).

March 28 "Essex" tried to break through, lost 58 people killed and 31 - missing, after which he gave up.

The British had 5 killed.

Not so, it turns out, and the Yankees dominated the equatorial zone of the Pacific Ocean ...

But the case of the Essex for us Russians could nonetheless be indicative and instructive. We had the right to close the Bering Sea in 1821. And we also had the right to deal with poachers as the Essex did in 1813 with the ships of a hostile power.

Ironically, one Essex was enough for the Yankees to frighten all the warm waters of the Pacific Ocean. Well, what - and a few armed patrols would be enough for us to restore order in our cold Pacific waters!

The example of "Essex" also shows that Rezanov's long-standing proposal for the armed suppression of "Boston" illegality in Russian America was both real and - if implemented - effective!

BUT THIS was the case of the sea ... And how strong were the Yankees on land?

To understand this, one must take a sober look at the Anglo-American War of 1812-1815 (sometimes its end is dated to 1814, but hostilities continued after the signing of the peace treaty in Ghent on December 24, 1814).

It is believed that the war was caused by a number of reasons, and above all - the English embargo on New World trade with Europe in connection with the Napoleonic Wars. Relations de-escalated, and on June 18, 1812, the US Congress declared war on England.

But already the amazing synchronicity of the actions of the Congress and the actions of Napoleon (the "Great Army" invaded Russia on June 12, 1812) says something.

And it's strange in general - with the start of the war between the Russians and the French, the British seemed to have to feel better, and the Yankees suddenly took courage at a moment that seemed to be not very successful for them.

In the monograph of the Irkutsk historian Vladimir Vladimirovich Yarovoy "The Origin of the English American War (1812-1815)", published in 1987 with a circulation of five hundred (alas!) copies, is a detailed and interesting work, although for some reason somewhat scanty in terms of the conclusions that arise from the stated conclusions, it is correctly said that the war was born "in frenzy of unbridled acquisitiveness, which in the era of the Napoleonic wars swept the bourgeoisie on both sides of the Atlantic.

However, it seems to me (although I am far from categorical here) that some important reasons Wars have never been called out loud by anyone.

But the author sees things like this ...

In the early years of the 19th century, there was no particular development of American patriotism. Many in the USA had nothing against the British both during the period of the "struggle" for the "liberation" of the colonies, and even more so now. And this could not please the Masonic architects of the "independent" States. American "patriotism" had to be urgently stimulated. But how? Hooray-patriotism is fueled by war, but with whom could fight the Yankees?

Only with England.

However, the "war" was not supposed to end in embarrassment, the Yankees should beat the British. Otherwise, was it worth making a fence?

And here the "architects" on both sides of the Atlantic overestimated Napoleon. They were confident in his victory, and therefore in new difficulties for England. Thomas Jefferson wrote to the Virginian merchant Leaper: *"We are deeply interested in seeing Bonaparte be able to completely isolate England from continental Europe."*

That is, in other words, the "friendly" United States was deeply interested in Napoleon's defeat of Russia. Under the guise of a Napoleonic victory over the Russians, an American "victory" over London in the "Second War for American Independence" (as it later came to be called) could be organized.

But it turned out differently...

And the Yankees had to fight. But no one was ready for this and was not ... The "war" dragged on for two years ...

Her story is as amazingly implausible as it is curious. Personally, when I met her, sometimes I could not believe my eyes! And here's how, my dear reader, - we are now We'll see...

It began with the fact that, having declared war first and under cheap pretexts, the United States was absolutely unprepared for it. By the beginning of the war, the "army" consisted of 6744 people, and the fleet - 16 ships with the "mighty" flagship Essex.

True, the English corps in Canada also consisted of 4,500 bayonets with little combat capability. American General Jackson ranted about a "military walk" to Canada.

And then events developed in such a way that I will simply quote below the corresponding article from the 2nd Great Soviet Encyclopedia: "The fighting began on July 12, 1812 with the offensive of an American detachment (1600 people) from Dayton to Detroit. The American detachment (commanded by Brigadier General Hull. - S.K.), despite the numerical superiority over the enemy, after a series of unsuccessful battles, capitulated in August. In October, another American detachment (5 thousand people) laid down its arms ... As a result

of these defeats, the United States was forced to surrender the entire territory of Michigan to England. In the winter of 1812/1813, the US Congress passed a law to increase the army to 57 thousand people, but the ruling circles were unable to create such an army, bringing its strength to only 19.5 thousand people. During 1813, the Americans achieved some successes ... Along with this, in 1813, American troops suffered a number of defeats. The law to increase the army to 62,733 (how accurate! - S.K.) people, adopted by the US Congress in early 1814, was also not implemented; managed to increase the army only up to 38 thousand people.

In the spring of 1814, after the end of the war with France, England ... transferred new forces to America. Aug 24 1814 An English detachment (5,000 people), after a short battle with a 7,000-strong (! - S.K.) detachment of Americans, captured the capital of the USA - Washington; while English. troops burned the Capitol and a number of other buildings (including the White House. - S.K.). The government fled with the remnants of the troops.

Here is such a "war" in a strictly encyclopedic coverage ...

I may add that as early as the beginning of 1812, Congress decided to increase the size of the army to 25 thousand people, then call for 50 thousand volunteers and 100 thousand to the state militia.

How all this was "implemented", we know. And no wonder - the "war" caused ... a wave of protests in New England and the state of New York, in Connecticut and Massachusetts ... These states supplied the "English occupiers" with food. And not only them.

Things in the United States were taking such a turn that the entire North American "independence" could collapse. After all, the plans of architects are plans, but not always with all the might of "free masons" and financial barons, it is possible to implement the most cunning plans when the masses are involved in the events. With them, too, sometimes you have to reckon!

England was supposed to succumb, in theory, but, imbued with patriotism that had definitely revived after the defeat of Napoleon, she sent 14 thousand veterans of Wellington's army to the States! And they were determined.

In the battles for Fort Erie in August - September 1814, the Americans lost 511 people killed and wounded, and the British - 609. Not much, but still ...

And this is where things get weird...

For example, Washington was occupied on August 24 by the soldiers of General R. Ross, during a fleeting battle near Bladensburg, they put to flight seven thousand people of General Winder from the militia of the states of Maryland and Virginia ... The White House turned black from soot and soot.

True, I warn the reader against perceiving the pogrom of the American capital as something grandiose. Here is a picture of Washington, drawn in June 1810 by the Russian envoy Fyodor Palen in his report to St. Petersburg: *"To give an idea of the capital of the United States, I will only report that on an area of 5 English miles long and 3 English miles wide, at most 10 thousand people live. inhabitants, and their dwellings are very remote from each other. Inside the city, you can still hunt partridges. Its position on the Potomac is excellent, and someday it may become one of the most beautiful capitals in the world."*

So, Washington, immersed in verdure, was far from the Gobi desert ... But, as the well-informed Dictionary of American History tells us, already on the morning of August 25, "bad weather forced the British", who occupied the city, "to return to their ships".

What kind of hurricanes and typhoons must have raged over the calm waters of the Potomac in August so that the victorious victors retreated so hastily?

N-yeah-ah...

And then, under the watchful eye of the "All-Seeing Eye", everything generally went for the Yankees as if oil, or Masonic design.

For some reason, it turned out that on September 13 (well, it happens!) Francis Scott Key was inspired by the sight of the Stars and Stripes flag covered in powder smoke over Fort McHenry and created the text of the future national anthem.

And for some reason, after only a day of shooting at McHenry, the British again quickly retreated to the ships, and a month later they sailed to Jamaica.

And for some reason, on August 8 in Europe, in Ghent, peace negotiations began, ending signing on December 24, 1814 of a peace treaty.

And for some reason, "under the curtain" of this strange "war" another almost improbable event...

Peace negotiations were ending in Ghent, and for some reason English General Keane went from Jamaica to the shores of the United States (sometimes the sources point to General Edward Pakenham as the commander, but he took command later) with an army of 7500 bayonets.

After landing, Keane moved to New Orleans - ostensibly with the aim of establishing control over the valley Mississippi. The direction is not entirely clear, but okay.

The Yankee General Jackson, who did not walk up in Canada, went to intercept Keane and Pakenham at the head of an army of 5 thousand bayonets (however, here we should not talk about bayonets, but about guns, and why this is so - I'll explain now).

It was on the night of December 24 (what, again, amazing synchronicity with events in Europe!) Jackson stops the advance of the English avant-garde.

Here Sir Edward Pakenham takes command, and on January 1 he attacks the Americans without much success.

And on January 8, 1815, the battle of the main forces near New Orleans is already taking place. Why it is not studied in all the military academies of the world as the most outstanding - I do not know ... But in one respect - according to authoritative sources - it is absolutely unprecedented!

I repeat: ab-so-lut-but!

So, on January 8, Pakenham, having waited for reinforcements, with a force of more than five thousand people, goes forward. Jackson has 4,500 "experienced, according to sources, shooters from Kentucky and Tennessee." Here they are - guns against bayonets!

And then, as historians tell us, two English attacks follow under continuous fire, and the offensive bogs down after the loss of more than two thousand people killed and wounded by the British (the famous dictionary of "The Battles of World History" by Thomas Harbottle says, however, about one and a half thousand)!

Sir Edward himself died...

Jackson's losses were, according to the Dictionary of American History, 8 (eight) people killed and 13 (thirteen) wounded.

Total - twenty-one! With let one and a half thousand from the opposite side.

Probably, even the European colonizers, armed with firearms against the spears and arrows of the natives, did not achieve such a ratio of losses!

Can you believe it?

Of course, the mass of snipers in one place is serious, but ...

But: 1) their rate of fire at that time was very low; 2) the Americans did not have special fortifications near New Orleans and could not have; 3) the states of Kentucky and Tennessee are not "hunting" states and were unlikely to be centers of shooting sports, so there were hardly thousands of snipers there ...

The main thing is...

The main thing is that all this is nonsense, my dear reader! Utter nonsense!

I don't even know how to explain everything here ... Well, let Jackson have several thousand miracle snipers ...

Let be!

But why, with such dense and deadly effective fire, did the British not retreat? What - they were so impatient to go and go in waves to certain death - in the manner of "black" white film officers, cheerfully walking under the turns of Chapaev's Anka the machine-gunner?

I can't believe it... Well, one attack - no matter what, and even then...

But two?

No, the reason here should not be sought in snipers!

Sources say that the brilliant victory at New Orleans did not affect the outcome of the war (well, of course, the peace was actually settled a month before), but powerfully raised the morale of the country and made Jackson a national hero.

And here, it seems to me, is the key to this most incredible victory in the history of wars.
one armed force over another...

I don't know how true the loss figures are, how true the accounts of the circumstances of the battle are, but I can't find any other rational explanation for its course and outcome, except for the vile provocation that the "architects" of both sides pulled off.

Why was she needed?

But why...

By the time of the Keane-Pakenham expedition, peace was already settled, and from a purely military point of view, this expedition was simply pointless. But the war ended without such an important result for the future of the United States as "national unity" and "uplifting of the American spirit." The ruins of Washington and the black, burnt White House could hardly be inspiring
examples and epochal symbols...

What, arrange a third "war for independence"?

But that would be overkill.

Wouldn't it be easier to do the following...

Send a poorly equipped detachment to a pre-prepared slaughter (Harbottle reports that the attack on January 1 failed by the British due to lack of ammunition) ...

To compose this detachment mainly of foreign mercenaries, whom no one in England will regret ...

First, entrust command to one (presumably - negligent and lack of initiative)
general, and then, deliberately introducing confusion, hastily replace him with a proud and energetic general.

Here it is necessary, however, to make a reservation ... I have no information about either General Keane or General Pakenham. And I don't know who was who. It is possible that the first of them was energetic and not initiated into the scam, and the second was just stupid and dedicated.

Pakenham was killed, but could have been removed. Moreover, it was removed, as in the case of his complicity - due to understandable, and not complicity - to avoid unnecessary conversations on his part.

So, after such preparation, it remained to arrange a massacre (not, of course, as bloody as this then they painted it in reports and newspaper reports, but still ...).

And after all, arrange a "triumph of the national spirit"! So that America will finally find a new incentive to develop either national pride, or national arrogance ...

Still - such a devastating defeat of the enemy in the almost complete absence of their own losses!

I can believe in different versions. I can't believe one thing - that New Orleans had indeed, a brilliant victory was won by the Yankees over the British ...

And not believing in this, I can firmly state that in fact the warriors from the Yankees were far from brilliant even then. And the real winners of Napoleon - the Russians were quite capable of reining them in Alaska, saying the Yankees a hard "tsyts"!

But they didn't say...

Is it not because both over the "battlefield" near New Orleans and over the crown of the Russian Empire did the same invisible and "all-seeing eye" shine?

He looked - without blinking and ominously, he emanated a cold light, capable, however, of the need to incinerate, he really claimed not only for omniscience, but also for omnipotence ...

But not everyone in Russia was ready to obey him...

Not only the Yankees proclaimed the principle "American for the Americans" ... There were also Russians, those who dare to say that Russian should belong to and benefit Russians.

But if America, through the mouth of Monroe, trumpeted its more than dubious rights to the whole world, then Russian patriots declared Russia's legitimate rights, not in an undertone. And not even a whisper. They talked about it in... secret notes.

Alas, my dear reader, I am not joking here ...

And now I'll prove it.

Chapter 5

On the rights of Russians to own the space of North-West America...

HOWEVER, in the beginning - something about some historical sources ...

We are already well aware that on September 4 (16), 1821, Emperor Alexander the First signed "Berings" Decree to the Governing Senate.

At first, the author, that is, I, was familiar with this Decree only in a brief summary - from secondary sources. And the reader can imagine how delighted the author was when his desk (precisely "at", and not "at ...") turned out to be more than a half-meter stack of books weighing twenty (specially weighed!) Kilograms under the general title "Foreign Policy of Russia XIX and early XX centuries. Documents of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs"...

This capital edition, begun in 1960, by 1985 reached only December 1926, but the year 1821 was, of course, presented - the fourth volume of the second series (1815-1830), and according to the general account - the twelfth, published by the Nauka publishing house in 1980.

Trembling with understandable impatience, I opened this volume, quickly found it in the "List of Documents" September, and ... And I did not find this decree in the list!

Not believing my eyes, I began to look through the table of contents again and saw now the "List annotations on previously published documents", where I found with relief the decree I needed ...

However, when I opened page 286, I was, to put it mildly, disappointed ... Here is the fully presented to my eyes the text (without title):

"The rules on the limits of navigation and the order of coastal relations along the coasts of Eastern Siberia, North-West America and the Aleutian, Kuril Islands, etc." are being approved. The right of whaling, fishing "and any kind of industry" on the northwestern coast of America from the Bering Strait to 51 ° north latitude and in the other territories mentioned above "is granted to the use of Russian subjects only.

PSZRI, vol. XXXVII, pp. 823-832.

Five and a half *lines* in petite, summarizing a nine- *page document*)

"Well, it's a pity, of course," I said to myself, "but this edition is intended for specialists, and, as follows from the reference to a certain PSZRI, the Decree, as the most important document, was published earlier in the scientific press. Maybe in the fifties, maybe in the seventies by the same Nauka publishing house. And the specialist, if necessary, will find this previous edition, hidden behind the abbreviation "PSZRI".

But what is this publication?

To clarify this, I opened the "List of abbreviations used in the volume" on page 729 and found out that "PSZRI" is the "Complete collection of laws of the Russian Empire since 1649 [Collection 1], vol. XIX-XXI, XXIII, XXV, XXXI, XXXIII-XXXVIII, XLV, Book of Tariffs. SPb., 1830 "...

So, in 1980, the Soviet academic team sent me for the full text of one of the most important documents of Russian history of the 19th century to a rare source of 1830 (one thousand eight hundred

thirtieth) year! I think that the library of far from every provincial university has it. And most likely - none at all!

What is this, dear reader, negligence? Academic punctuality? Or, after all, the "all-seeing eye" did not ignore Russian America here too - after more than a hundred and fifty years?

Why, they say, even Russian historians need to know some delicate facts from the "Russian American history, and especially its most important and exciting pages for the Russian heart!

BUT THIS, dear reader, is just a hint for a further story ...

September 13 (please pay attention to the sacramental number "13", we will return to it later in connection with Alexander) Alexander signs another Decree to the Senate - on the renewal for a period of 20 years of the privileges of the Russian-American Company and the approval of the new rules of the Company (this twelve-page in the original, the document by the academicians of the Central Committee of the CPSU is also set out in two and a half lines with a petit and also with reference to PSZRI).

The sequence of the emperor's acts was quite logical... At first, on September 4, the state and its monarch secured rights in Russian America exclusively for their subjects, and then on September 13, they specified special rights for those of their subjects who were already actually operating in this part of the Russian state.

On the same day, September 13, 1821, the tsar also approved the "Secret Rules for the Russian American company", which I will not be able to give in full, but which I will quote as extensively as possible ...

"In the rules for the Russian-American Company, which should be made public to the public," this document read, " the following special

articles:

Steam. 1. The company, while observing its own benefits, should never lose sight of the benefits. states...

Steam. 2. The company must not take into its service in the colonies or for the settlement of them foreign nationals without prior permission from the government.

Steam. 3. The company, using the high patronage of e.i. in-va and having received significant advantages from the government, she should not, out of excessive prudence, leave her colonies unprotected even from the slightest attack by a merchant ship, but, on the contrary, she is obliged to try to ensure that the main points of her possessions are brought into a position that would inspire foreigners due respect for them.

Steam. 4. The company will especially pay attention to the enterprises of the citizens of the United American States who settled at the mouth of the Columbia River (this is just the area of Vancouver Island, Oregon. - S.K.). Their intentions may be, on the one hand, the dispatch of light ships to fisheries along the shores we occupy, and on the other hand, to excite the peoples inhabiting these shores to armament. against the Russians...

Steam. 5. The Company should endeavor to find out what kind of relations the Americans of the United States have with the independent peoples of the countries it occupies, and as the Company has no less means and means of gaining the respect, trust, and even friendship of these peoples, then from the diligence and prudent measures of those who govern it in in those places it will depend on preventing all the unfavorable consequences of hostile rivalry ... "

Events that unfolded after the promulgation "to the public" of the Decree and open rules

RAC, quickly confirmed that the publication of the "Secret Rules" was quite necessary, justified and timely.

As I reported earlier, the Anglo-Saxons made an incredible, hysterical noise. And on October 7, 1821, Nesselrode, the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in a circular dispatch to Russian diplomatic representatives abroad, instructed them to notify the governments of foreign powers that the issuance of the Decree of September 4 was caused both by the desire to protect the RAC from "various kinds of foreign adventurers and smugglers", and by the desire to put an end to smuggling importation of weapons into the Company's possessions and that these new rules do not affect the interests of any state.

I note: the very fact of sending such a dispatch proves that the entire "civilized world" was well aware of the fact that the north-west of the American continent and the islands in northern parts of the Pacific Ocean.

On the SAME day, a separate dispatch was also sent to the envoy in Washington, well-known to us, Petr Poletika, with an order to assure Adams that Russia's actions are not hostile to the United States, but are only aimed at putting an end to the illegal actions of some American sailors off the coast of the RAK possessions and thereby avoid unwanted complications between Russia and the United States.

But it wasn't that simple...

On January 21, 1821, Poletika sent another report to Nesselrode ...

"Monsieur Count," wrote the envoy. "During my stay in this country, I have had the opportunity to be convinced more than once that in commercial circles there is an ever stronger desire to know the position of our settlements on the northwest coast of America. This interest was convincingly evidenced by articles that appeared from time to time in daily newspapers. It was easy to see that the enterprising American merchants, seeing how the European market was becoming increasingly narrow for goods made in the United States, were looking for new markets for themselves, fixing their eyes on the Pacific Northwest, which promised to be an abundant source of enrichment through the fur trade, which American shrewd merchants hope to take over completely with the help of the settlements created at the mouth of the Columbia River since 1805.

The fact that the Yankees opened their mouths to the fur trade in the Pacific Ocean was known to us even without Poletika - otherwise the "Berings" decree would not have been prepared in St. Petersburg. Yes, and the reader, I hope, has not forgotten about Astoria Jacob Astor ...

However, allegedly the Russian envoy for some reason left behind

in brackets are the facts of illegal actions of the Yankees in the Russian zone - above the "mouth of the Columbia River" ...

And then Poletika reported something that directly proved his actual betrayal of the interests of Russia:

"Until the conclusion of the Washington Treaty of February 22, 1819. year (meaning the Adams-Onis Treaty, which I informed the reader about. - S.K.), all these far-reaching plans, generated by the desire for quick profit, could only be considered projects designed for a very distant future. But since, in accordance with one of the articles of the aforesaid treaty, Spain ceded to the United States a strip of the coast of the Atlantic Ocean, extending from 48 to 50 north latitude, it cannot be denied that what seemed in the past dreams, began to acquire in the end some real content..."

So, the Russian envoy himself admitted that the Adams-Onis treaty was for the interests of Russia harmful. But, as we know, he actively contributed to its conclusion.

I have already given an assessment of his actions above, but that's not all! Further, immediately after the paragraph I just quoted, Poletika wrote lines that I would call shamelessly frank and self-revealing:

"8 In fact, since that time the curiosity of the Americans about the northwest coast of America and our settlements on it has increased to such an extent that it quite amazed me. Not infrequently, even persons known for their position in society ... unexpectedly turned to me, and in my own home, with a request to tell them what the Russians intended to do on the northwest coast of America. I did not feel their desire to show indelicacy, and therefore, considering the innocence (n-yes! - S.K.), with which they asked me, answered with a smile that, no matter how weak our rights to settlements in America (even these In the words spoken in the USA, Poletika committed not only an official, but also a real state crime, and he himself admitted to it! Well, well! - S.K.), in any case, they are stronger than the rights of the United States, because to the times before the emergence of this country as a state ... "

Poletika, even though he fancied himself a man of subtle matters, did he discover any professional incompetence, or phenomenal ignorance, or, to put it simply, roly-playing ... Since the time of at least Bering (and this is fifty years before the formation of the United States), he was obliged to count Russian rights in America. And he was obliged to give accurate information on this score to all his American interlocutors.

And he was obliged to speak not about some kind of "weakness" of Russian rights, but, on the contrary, about their obviousness and perseverance!

However, the envoy was clearly pleased with his "witty" answer, for he explained: *"Such an answer, which was both joking and serious at the same time, invariably led to the fact that they no longer addressed me with such a question ..."*

I don't know about the reader, but I have words within the framework of the normative vocabulary about what was written Poletika is hard to find!

It's necessary not to see any "indelicacy", but to see "simplicity" in arrogant, stubborn, provocative questions! Engage in dubious wit, "jokingly" acknowledging the weakness of our rights in America! And this - instead of politely but firmly answering that the intentions, they say, of Russia in Russian America are purely an internal affair of Russia and the Russian envoy is not interested in the Yankees what they intend to do in the territories received from Spain under the Washington Treaty of 1819 of the year...

And how to understand his statement about the fact that the rights, they say, of Russia are "stronger" than the rights of the United States? In Russian Alaska, in the Russian Aleuts and other Russian American lands, including the Alexander Archipelago, the United States did not have and could not have any rights at all!

And the Russian diplomat was obliged to be firm and tough here - albeit with arbitrarily deep politeness and courtesy, and to clearly inspire this idea to all official and unofficial persons in the country of his stay!

Yes, we have to repeat: Russia had a good envoy in the States!

Further, Poletika announced that he was also sending a report by a special committee of the US Congress, which "proved" the legitimacy and expediency of the occupation by the United States of the Columbia River basin. Moreover, this report stated that "the Republic of the United States has an irrefutable right to the possession of the entire northwestern coast of America, which lies between latitudes 36 and 60."

Yes, even then the Yankees rolled their lips not a fool ...

At the end, the messenger added:

I personally doubt very much that Poletika has honor, and therefore, in my opinion, his sly "concern" was caused by one thing - the desire to receive factual intelligence information about Russian America first-hand, that is, from the RAC.

And I'm almost sure that his numerous "apron" friends-"philosophers" asked him about this ... And how he "took care" of the interests of the RAC and Russia, conducting negotiations in St. Petersburg three years later, we already know a little...

Russia's RESPONSE was given with truly Russian innocence - without quotation marks, but quite intelligible and worthy...

Not quickly, however, but not because they were cautious, but simply - the documentation between the Russian ministries did not move quickly ... Poletika's dispatch is dated January 21, 1821, but only October 8, 1821, the Minister of Finance of the Russian Empire Dmitry Alexandrovich Guryev in a cover letter to Nesselrode, the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that he was forwarding a note for the Foreign Ministry and Poletika, *"proving the rights of the Russian Empire to the entire space indicated in the decree, approved on September 4 of this year by the highest approved"* ...

The note outlined the history of Russian discoveries in Northwest America and the course of our development of these lands, starting from the 18th century ... Its authors recalled that such famous sailors as Cook, La Perouse, Vancouver "unanimously certify the presence of our settlements in these parts" and continued:

"If we had timely published the discoveries made by our navigators after Bering and Chirikov (in particular, Khlodilov, Serebryannikov, Krasilnikov, Paikov, Pushkarev, Lazarev, Medvedev, Solovyov, Levashov, Krenitsyn and others), then no one would dispute our rights discoveries, just as no one can challenge our rights

first class."

I have already written about someone from the above list of RAK (of course, the Company prepared the materials for the note of the Ministry of Finance), I will say at least a couple of words about someone now ... But the reader can easily will notice that many of our famous Pacific navigators are not mentioned in this list - the same at least Andrey Tolstykh.

But this just proves: mentioning everyone is not enough paper! And even these - almost by accident chosen, Russian names sound glorious and weighty ...

Fyodor Khlodilov (Kholodilov) - a merchant from Totma, sailed in the North Pacific Ocean in 1753-1755 on the ship "John" ...

Andrei Mikhailovich Serebryannikov - Moscow industrialist and explorer, in 1744-1763 For years, he equipped vessels in Kamchatka for hunting and exploring the Aleut ...

The Tula merchant Semyon Krasilnikov was also a navigator, in

1754-1758 and in 1766 he visited the Aleuts on the ship "Peter and Vladimir" ...

Dmitry Paykov - navigator on the boat "Saint Vladimir" ...

Gavriil Pushkarev participated in the 2nd Kamchatka expedition on the packet boat "Saint Peter", and in 1777-1782 sailed on the ships "Gabriel" and "Andrew the First-Called" ...

Cossack Maxim Lazarev explored the Andreyanovsky Islands together with Andrey Tolstykh on the ship "Andreyan and Natalya" ...

Boatswain Vasily Medvedev was a member of the Great Northern Expedition ...

Tobolsk merchant Ivan Maksimovich Solovyov explored the Aleutian Islands, in 1758-1775 he was a leader on the vessels sailing off the coast of Alaska "Iulian", "Holy Apostles Peter and Paul", "Nikolai", "Paul" ...

Finally, the reader knows quite well about Catherine's naval officers Levashov and Krenitsyn.

As for the confidence of the authors of the note of the Ministry of Finance that if, they say, Russia had not hesitated to declare its rights, no one would have disputed them with us, it must be said that inescapable and purely Russian ingenuous decency was evident in such confidence. ...

A Western businessman is decent insofar as it benefits him. And if he can be dishonorable without damaging his business reputation, he - rest assured - will eat you without oil and without a knife.
slaughter.

And Russians (if they are Russians) are decent because - how could it be otherwise?

But, it would not hurt us to understand that trying to be decent with scoundrels and scoundrels is not to respect ourselves.

Moreover, about the fact that Russia, they say, did not immediately publish its discoveries, the note of the Ministry of Finance was also slightly mistaken ... We know, dear reader, that the same Cook knew about the discovery, say, of the surveyor Gvozdev (in fact, the Ministry of Finance itself referred on Cook).

The British were aware of the results of the Krenitsyn-Levashov expedition no later than 1780.

of the year...

And one more thing - about which even the Board of the RAC could not only forget after the prescription of years, but simply not know about it. But what they had no right to forget - because they knew about it for sure - in the Russian Foreign Ministry. I have in mind the old rescript of Pavel, sent in 1799 to the Russian ambassador-Anglomane Vorontsov in London. **After all, a map of Russian possessions in America was attached to this rescript!** If the reader remembers, I especially drew his attention to this fact - for the future. That is, Russia officially declared its rights to Russian America a long time ago - as early as the end of the 17th century! century.

Well, as they say, and so on

Even the "apron" Poletika "joked" correctly - what kind of US rights to North-West America can there be when the Russians appeared on the American continent before the state of the "United States" appeared on this continent!

Moreover, when the United States appeared on the political map of the world, their borders did not come close to the western coast of the American continent, even in the Oregon region, not to mention the region of the Alexander Archipelago, where our Novo-Arkhangelsk stood, and, moreover, the region of Alaska and the Aleut .

The Russian note recalled that Paul's Decree on the establishment of the RAC, published in 1799, transferred to the exclusive possession of the Company lands from the 55th north latitude and allowed the establishment of Russian settlements further south, provided that the Company would not encroach on the lands occupied by any power . And that this act "*did not cause any objections from other governments and even the court of Madrid*" (which then had the only property on the west coast of the Pacific Ocean in Upper California. - S.K.).

The note ended like this:

Wow! Dispute...

Not like a dispute - there was a total and vile impudence ahead at all levels, including the highest state...

But in Russia and in the RAC, Poletika's "anxiety" about the lack of information from the RAC was taken at face value, and on October 21, 1821, the directors of the RAC, Venedikt Kramer and Andrey Severin, sent a letter to Poletika, where they reported about the deportation of a note from the Ministry of Finance and wrote:

The letter of the directors of the RAC was not intended not only for publication, but in general for other people's eyes. It was purely business informational in nature, so what the directors wrote further was, of course, true. And they wrote this:

Alas, in 1822, instead of strictly observing the "marine regulations", Russia began on the issue of For the first time, Russian America is backing away, and the Anglo-Saxons have begun an official "roll forward" on it.

February 28 Poletika — what to do with, in pursuance of the instructions, sends a letter to US Secretary of State Adams, where he cites the arguments of St.

first occupation and, finally, previously undisputed first possession.

On March 9, Adame presents Poletika with a note of protest.

On April 2, Poletika conciliatorily explains to him again that Russia will not restrict the rights of American citizens to trade with the local population "on the territory outside the jurisdiction of the Russian government."

The wording is vague, allowing you to interpret it in different ways, but the Yankees are not satisfied and this ...

The British Secretary of State, Castlereagh, protested even earlier, on 18 January. True, in that moment occupied in the east, the British were not particularly active, but they will still win back later ...

And the tension builds up.

On July 27 (August 8), 1822, the US envoy to Russia, Middleton, asks Nesselrode to notify of "the measures that the imperial government is going to take in order to avoid complications that may arise in the event of the practical implementation of the above obligations (i.e. - Decree of September 4. - S.K.)".

On July 3, Nesselrode, in a detailed letter to Count Guryev, explained the emperor's view of the situation around Russian America and requested additional information from the RAC - so that Major General Baron Fedor Vasilyevich Teil-fan-Seroskerken, who was appointed to Washington instead of Poletika, could negotiate more meaningfully with the American government. Theil was supposed to answer Middleton's questions.

In the text of Nesselrode's letter, there was already a reservation that such a development of events was possible, when "we would no longer be forced to prohibit the navigation of foreign ships to the limits determined by the rules of September 4 and could limit ourselves to protecting the maritime space, which is usually under the jurisdiction of any power, owning the seashore and an organization on the very shore of the system precautions..."

It was still a small but obvious crack in the monolith of the "Bering" Decree.

On the letter to Nesselrode, Alexander personally noted: *"To be according to this."*

He hasn't started to retreat yet, but he's already trembling...

On August 1 (13), Nesselrode replied to Middleton with a note informing that the problems raised would be discussed in Washington by Theil...

And on July 13 (according to the Russian style), Nesselrode handed Theil an instruction, which indicated that Alexander demanded that the envoy to the United States pay special attention to three issues: protecting the interests of the RAC, concluding a convention on the delimitation between Russian and American possessions in North West America, and also the arbitral decision of the king on the interpretation of the Treaty of Ghent.

That confusion deliberately arranged by Alexander in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which I already spoke about, was reflected in Theil's receipt of the same July 13 personal letter from the State Secretary of Kapodistrias (who would hardly have risked taking the initiative without the will of the king), where Kapodistrias oriented the new envoy on only one problem - protecting the interests of the RAC and justifying Russia's jurisdiction over part of the Pacific Ocean, washing Russian America.

Well, that's an interesting detail. Alexander increasingly trusted Nesselrode in practical foreign policy, but *did he trust* him at the same time? Judging by the duplication of Teil's instructions through Kapodistria, not so much.

Soon Theil leaves for Paris - in transit to Washington. And on August 5 (17) Nesselrode sent him a letter there, which Theil received on August 23 (September 4). At first, dear reader, I tried to state or quote it briefly, but then I spat on these attempts and now I will quote it almost in full, because this is the case when the original is more convincing than any transcription ...

So, on the direct instructions of Alexander, Nesselrode additionally instructed Theil in how:

"Desiring, like the United States, to prevent the use of violence ... we did not hesitate to give to understand to Mr. Middleton that the emperor rightly expects reciprocity from his government.

We would like to believe that the said government will henceforth employ all the means at its disposal in order to dispel the false rumors which ill-wishers have sought to spread in America concerning the possibility or even the imminence of hostile action, owing to the entry into force of the regulations of 4 (16) September. We are far from intending to provoke these actions, and the statements you will begin negotiations with the Government of the United States with will be the best proof of this. But it could, in turn, also provide us with a guarantee of its intentions in this sense, recommending that the newspapers under its influence tell the whole truth ... "

Here I will stop quoting to note in brackets: the "totalitarian" monarch/Russian tsar did not understand that a "free" press is a "free" press. And if we take away from her the right to provoke, to lie, to encourage bad thoughts and inclinations, then what will remain of her freedom? Official Washington could not shut up the clickers even if it wanted to. But in fact, these clickers simply played their role in the same booth, where Adams and Monroe also had their role!

Anyway, let's continue with the quote:

"Such ... steps would be appropriate and sufficient to call to order those people who would intend to provoke the detention of their ships in coastal waters under our supervision, either with the intention of damaging relations between the two states, or in the expectation of obtaining late compensation in the event that the detention becomes the subject of negotiations or agreement between our government and the government of the United States.

The more the latter tries to convince American merchants and navigators of his intention to explain himself and amicably resolve with the imperial cabinet the difficulties associated with the regulations of September 4 (16), the sooner his subjects will be convinced of the friendly intentions of the Russian court and the less there will be assumptions about the possibility

gap between the two states and those who make such assumptions ... "

As you can see, some people in the USA have already presented the matter in such a way that Russia and the USA are going to war, and that's all because of the "Regulations of September 4 (16)"! And Alexander reasonably believed that if the US authorities clearly state that they will not encourage Yankee poachers and will not take them under protection, then there will be no or almost no such poachers. In Nesselrod's dispatch, this was further stated quite unambiguously:

"When shipowners or captains of American ships know that their government does not dispute with us the right to carry out surveillance of the coastal strip immediately adjacent to our settlements within the limits specified in our new instructions, none of them, no doubt, will dare to conduct a trade that is the subject of complaints from our side. Then the cruising service of our ships will not be aimed at monitoring American ships. Any possibility of a collision will be excluded, and no violent action will complicate ... important

negotiations."

It would seem that everything is said both politely and clearly ... But the Yankees would not be Yankees if they were guided logic, not arrogance ...

Even before receiving the above-cited letter, Baron Theil sent on August 14 (26) from Paris Nesselrode reply to his dispatch of 13 July.

He reported: *"I intend to sail on October 1, st. Art. from Havre de Grasse in American the ship The Six Brothers bound for New York under the command of Captain Williams.*

In the same place, he outlined his conversation with the US envoy to the French court, Albert Gallatin.

Abraham Alphonse Albert Gallatin was a personality both bright and dark at the same time. Born in 1761 into a wealthy aristocratic family in Geneva, after graduating from the Geneva Academy, he moved to North America to "struggle" for its "independence", then he was engaged in land and political speculation, in 1801-1813 he was Minister of Finance, and a lot. later became president of the National Bank of New York, which was later named after him.

In 1813, Gallatin, being an envoy in St. Petersburg, negotiated peace with England through the mediation of Russia.

This enlightened and *dedicated* man lived for nearly ninety years, died in 1849 year, and in Paris at the age of sixty he was still quite energetic and assertive:

"I am already aware, Mr. Baron, of your new appointment.

"Yes, I am sailing for your second home soon, Mr. Gallatin. And I'm going to have serious negotiation.

- Well, - the Swiss Yankee was categorical, - if it were not about Russia, but about any other power, then my government would act even more resolutely.

- That is?

- Well, let's say, for the States, only the question of maritime jurisdiction is important, but for England, besides this, There is also concern about territorial boundaries.

Calm by nature and by his understanding of duty, Theil listened attentively and silently, while Gallatin

did not stop:

- Now England is not making a big fuss, she is concerned not to get involved in a new war, but you will have to agree on the delimitation with her ...

If we recall that in the States even then they looked at Canada as their future territory, then Gallatin's hypocrisy was obvious, but it was only a saying, and the American became a fairy tale.
tell like this:

"I don't understand what the misunderstanding between us is about?" Your measures to protect the Russian settlements American companies are strange. And your principle of expanding territorial waters will be resolutely rejected. According to established custom, the width of the national strip should not exceed three or four miles from the coast ...

Theil shrugged his shoulders, but his interlocutor did not let up:

- You close the entire Bering Sea for our whalers and fishermen ... As for the fur trade, it is of no particular importance to the United States. Yes, and our settlements on the northwestern coast should be considered as purely temporary ... - Here Gallatin fell silent, pouted and importantly finished: - Such vast regions cannot sooner or later gain complete independence ...

What the American envoy meant here, I cannot understand... What kind of independence and what territories on the Pacific coast of America could one talk about? Would the beavers intend to declare a republic? Or would the Aleuts suddenly want a parliamentary form of government?

But God would be with him, with this Gallatin, because he was shamelessly wrong in another way ... In the northern part of the Pacific Ocean, the nature of the location of land and islands is completely unique. That is, nowhere else on the planet such a picture is observed, and nowhere else is the natural border of the state determined so visibly by a continuous island chain ... At the same time, at the moment of the Paris conversation between the two envoys, the narrow Russian peninsula of Alaska, the island continuation of which was the Aleuts, the Russian Aleuts themselves, The Russian Commander Islands, not far from Russian Kamchatka, so obviously fenced off the Bering Sea from the rest of the Pacific Ocean that, under the then political map of the world, the Bering Sea turned out to be, in fact, an inland Russian sea from a purely geographical point of **view** .

After all, the Yankees did not claim free navigation in the Russian Sea of \u200b\u200bAzov? And I would look at the Gallatins of the 20th century if Soviet nuclear submarines tried to enter the waters of, say, Hudson Bay, justifying their right with the arguments of Gallatin and his boss Adams.

Alas, Baron Theil said nothing of the kind, but simply remarked:

"You, Mr. Gallatin, seem to me to be showing a little more vehemence. But I hope, that we are able to eliminate the difficulties that have arisen and to reconcile mutual interests ...

"Well, of course," the European-Masonic Yankee was quick to agree, "I think that between the two governments interested in maintaining friendly relations, there will be no serious dispute in matters of essentially unimportant ...

So, the Americans pretended to be simpletons and tried to convince the Russians that the matter was trifling. Just think, some kind of temporary settlements there, and what does the rights of Russians to Beringovo have to do with it sea...

Yes, in 1822 a lot was put on the scales of history.

At the end of July of this year, a note from the Main Board of the Russian-American Company to Minister of Finance Guryev *"On the rights of Russians to own the space of North-West America, given to the department of the Russian-American Company"* was laid down on it ...

This extensive note, in my opinion, is worthy of publication as a separate illustrated brochure. On the one hand, it is an official document and as such it is strict. But it's far from dry! Sometimes the style of the note turns out to be an exciting and passionate manifesto of the free Russian spirit...

"All enlightened peoples agree that the right to possess unknown countries is based solely on either the first discovery or the establishment of permanent dwellings in them," the note began. — All European powers that discovered unknown countries, inhabited or uninhabited, immediately attached them to their scepter and, if they foresaw the benefit, set up settlements on them, built fortresses, formed a government and made up of them areas known as colonies. The remoteness of such settlements, uncertainty about the loyalty or goodwill of the inhabitants, the abundance of rich products of those countries, and many other reasons were the reason for the establishment of the so-called colonial system, which consisted in the fact that no one could enjoy the right to have relations or trade with these countries, except for subjects the nation that founded them. This system, recognized and approved by all maritime powers, is the most just. The discovery of such a country and the settlement of it involves the greatest difficulties; this requires time, labor, significant dependencies, and often the very blood and life of citizens.

By what right, then, could every stranger enjoy the same benefits that purchased at such a high price?

This is the basis on which the rights of the European peoples to own the countries discovered in the New World are affirmed, these are the reasons why they own various lands in America and countless islands scattered over the seas ... "

As you can see, the RAC Board did not claim to open a certain legal "America", but, on the contrary, reminded that the legal international status of the colonies was not established by the Russians.

The RAC board, on the other hand, asserted the right of the Russians to discover America geographically - in part northwestern lands, and stated:

"The same foundation also serves the Russians as a support for the possession of the Kuril, Aleutian and other islands and those lands of North-West America, which the Russian government has placed at the disposal of the Russian-American Company. The Russians were the first to discover all these lands and islands, they were the first to establish permanent dwellings on them, and who else, besides them, has the right to enjoy the benefits that are presented there for industry?

That the Russians were the first to discover these countries and the first to build dwellings in them, this is convincing proof of the history of their discovery. Who is not aware of the expeditions sent by the Russian government to discover the seas lying to the east of the shores of Russian East Asia? And who does not know the success with which they fulfilled the plans and types of government? The discoveries of these expeditions were a novelty for the entire scientific world. Before these expeditions, no one in the world had the slightest idea not only about the shores of North-West America, but also about whether these shores are connected to the shores of Asia or are separated from each other by some kind of strait ... "

Having told about the history, the authors of the note concluded: *"So, based on the right of discovery, those countries belong to the Russians. But they were not only the first to discover, but the first to inhabit some of those countries ... And therefore, Russia, both by the right of the primacy of discovery, made much earlier than the existence of the American Republic, and by the initial occupation, has an indisputable right to possess the islands of the North-Western Ocean and the northwestern coast of America, starting from 55 ° north latitude and beyond the Bering Strait, and south to 51 °, to which her subjects most extended their voyages ... "*

A lot of space in the note was devoted to listing RAC "institutions" in Russian America. "On

Unalaska, - reported, for example, a note - lying at 57 ° 7 north latitude and 210 ° 45 longitude from Ferro, by a small river there is a village named from Mr. local

residents."

And here is how Novo-Arkhangelsk was described: *"The main trading post of the Company is located on Sitkha. On this island, a decent village was established with a church, a school and a hospital, and a small fortress was built, equipped with the required number of guns ... "*

Seven Russian settlements were mentioned on the mainland itself: Pavlovskaya, Georgievskaya, Alexandrovskaya, Voskresenskaya, Konstantinovskaya, Nikolaevskaya and Simeonovskaya "fortresses" ...

For the sake of fairness and accuracy, I will have to report that the main ruler of the Russian of the American colonies, Matvei Ivanovich Muravyov, having read the note of the RAC board, already clarified in his note to the board: *"I found that among these institutions there are names of fortresses that either never existed or do not exist now."*

Muravyov expressed bewilderment and noted that *"if this is due to some political views"*, then the truth is still established by foreigners if they wish, easily, and *"if this is stated through the ignorance of the Main Board"*, then here is an accurate and more modest list of settlements.

As I understand it, both Muravyov and the Main Board were right. It's just that in St. Petersburg they still lived with the "nomenclatura" of Russian America from the time of the great Baranov, but in reality it was already the time of the mediocre Muravyov. And something is already starting to fade...

But there could be no doubt that on the Pacific coast of America there was a "Russian settled way of life, called Ross.

The note spoke about Fort Ross in particular detail, and it was understandable - it was a point problem. Fort Ross was far away from Russian America, there were Spanish settlements nearby.

But here is such a detail from the note - the local Indian leader Valenila, when Captain Golovnin visited Ross, "asked him for the Russian flag in order to raise it when Russian ships appeared as a sign of friendship for the Russian people he ruled."

And in general, the situation around Fort Ross was then quite calm. Unlike the Yankees, who incited the Alaska Indians to strife with the Russians, the Spaniards did not run the risk of muddying our relationship with the California Indians. And the Russians themselves did not give reasons for their discontent.

As for the Decree of September 4, the Anglo-Saxons justified their dissatisfaction with the fact that they supposedly hunt whales and fish in the northern waters, and the Decree, they say, forbids this.

The RAC note rightly remarked to this: *"Who will believe their stories that they swim in the waters there solely for whaling or fishing? And is it possible to suppose that they set off into such remote seas solely for the purpose of catching whales and fish, at a time when the nearest seas offer a full opportunity to satisfy their desires?"*

No, the Yankees and the English from the Hudson's Bay Company were attracted to Russian America, "dazzled their imagination", in the words of the note, of course, "soft junk", furs ...

Moreover, they not only poached and stole from Russia its national treasure, but also undermined the Russian-Chinese trade, which then went through Kyakhta.

Now Kyakhta (formerly Troitskosavsk) is a small town in Buryatia on the very border with Mongolia (and once with China), two hundred kilometers southwest of Ulan-Ude ... And in the 18th and 19th centuries it was the main

border Russian-Chinese trade center, here was concluded in 1727 the Kyakhta Russian-Chinese treaty of trade and borders...

It was concluded by Count Savva Lukich Raguzinsky-Vladislavich, and in the same year, on Trinity Day, the Trinity Fortress was founded near the new border, and the village of Troitskosavsk nearby, which combined in the name both the name of the count-diplomat, and the name of the fortress.

Russian America was then the richest source of furs ... Moreover, the fur of fur seals and sea beavers could only be obtained from there. There were, of course, crafts and to the south - on the same islands of Queen Charlotte, but these were not the Aleuts ...

Fur was highly valued in China, and it was mainly Russians who brought it and brought it to Kyakhta. in some period, it was convenient for both our exports and our imports from China.

For the Anglo-Saxons it was more profitable and more convenient, of course, the maritime trade center. In fact, they could not have otherwise. And such a center has been in China for more than one thousand years - the southern Chinese port of Canton (Guangzhou). In 1720, the Kohong merchant corporation was established in Canton, which had a monopoly on trade with foreigners, and in 1757 all Chinese ports were closed for foreign trade - except for Canton ... I already wrote about this when I talked about the first Russian round-the-world expedition.

The British and Yankees brought opium to Canton, exporting silver. But they also brought their poaching prey there - Russian Alaskan and Aleutian furs, which, as was said in the note, *"constitute the only kind of industry, with the help of which they hope to be able to divert the Chinese from Kyakhta, where their mutual relationship with the Russians is quite important. bargaining, and lure them to Canton, if they could find a way to deliver to the port there those fishing acquisitions with which the Company supplies Kyakhta."*

There was a well-known way to deliver it - by ocean ... And then there were no obstacles and problems. The problem for the Yankees was that the method of "commercial acquisitions" of furs was, whatever one may say, poaching, illegal. And instead of Canton it was always possible to find yourself in, say, Petropavlovsk Kamchatsky or Novo-Arkhangelsk, a detained Russian cruising patrol vessel.

So far, the Yankees have gotten away with it most of the time, but the 9/4 Executive Order created a legal framework that would kill their business. And if it had been reinforced by extended patrols - goodbye, Cantonese geshefts of "Russian-American" origin ...

Moreover, the RAC courts were not ordered to go to Canton ...

And the DANGER for "business" became more and more real. Immediately after the adoption of the Decree of September 4, 1821, the Apollo sloop was sent to the waters of Russian America to carry out the patrol service already usual in Russian America. He left Kronstadt on September 28, 1821 under the command of Captain 1st Rank Irinarkh Stepanovich Tulubiyev. After the death of Tulubiyev in the Indian Ocean from tuberculosis, the sloop was received by Lieutenant Stepan Petrovich Khrushchev (future admiral), who brought him to Petropavlovsk in August 1822, then starting patrolling. By the way, the future Decembrist Mikhail Karlovich Küchelbecker sailed on the Apollo as a lieutenant.

In October, the Apollo detained and inspected the American ship Pearl, which had previously been forced to leave its first contraband cargo of furs in Novo-Arkhangelsk. Soon this "pearl" sank into the dunghill of "indignant" articles in American newspapers.

On August 16, 1822, Khrushchev was replaced by the frigate "Cruiser" under the command of Captain 2nd Rank Mikhail Petrovich Lazarev-the famous and the sloop "Ladoga" under the command of his older (with a year of everything, however, difference) brother, Lieutenant Commander Andrei Petrovich Lazarev (was also the third, younger brother

Lazarev - Alexei, also a round-the-world "American" and also a future admiral).

"Cruiser" and "Ladoga" were still on the way, and the head of the Naval Staff, Admiral Anton Vasilyevich Moller reported on March 7, 1823 to the emperor:

On Moller's report, Alexander noted: *"Execute. St. Petersburg, March 11, 1823 .*

Lazarev, on December 10, 1823, upon arrival in Novo-Arkhangelsk, sent a report to the Admiralty Board, where he reported on the delivery of instructions to the ruler of the colonies Muravyov and that Muravyov ordered the Ladoga and Apollo sloops to return to St. Petersburg, and "Cruiser" - go for a cargo of food to California (that is, to Fort Ross).

It will be worth noting that at the beginning of the same year, 1823, Muravyov reported to St. Petersburg about the return of the companion brig "Volga" from California with a load of grain and pointed out that "the arable farming started around the village in the future could bring tangible benefits to all the local *colonies* , if this village were kept for us "...

Let us return, however, to Lazarev's mission...

Thirty-three-year-old Mikhail Lazarev, the hero of the Battle of Navarino, a true Russian patriot, was a brave, resolute, proud, ardent and, at the same time, very experienced sailor. In 1813, commanding the ship RAC "Suvorov", he began his first round-the-world trip with a call to Russian America, in 1819-1821 he participated in the Bellingshausen expedition

in the first Russian circumnavigation of the Antarctic.

The choice of him as the commander of the patrol detachment spoke for itself and showed the importance Petersburg attached to this campaign. However, before the detachment left, Admiral Moller handed Lazarev an instruction instructing him to *"make his observations as close to solid ground as possible"*, and soon additional instructions were received: *"Since it is determined by the highest will to make observations for cruising ships as close to solid ground as possible this possible proximity of the distance must be accepted for execution on a cannon shot from the coast ... "*

So, these were not even 3-4 miles of Gallatin ... And Alexander, although he sent Russian military frigates in the spring of 1823 to protect Russian crafts and possessions, more and more conceded on the issue of the new status of the Bering Sea without visible combat ...

However, he did not send the Vestovoy frigate, although he himself expressed his "highest will" to Moller in this regard. On July 28, 1823, one sloop "Enterprise" under the command of Otto Evstafievich Kotzebue left for the Pacific Ocean.

HERE WE also need to know that back in May 1821, another dispatch from Poletika reported on the equipment of an American military expedition to the Pacific Ocean consisting of the 90-gun battleship Franklin and the brig Dolphin.

On September 25, Poletika repeated his May message, adding that Commodore Stewart's squadron, to which the Constellation frigate, already in Valparaiso in Chile, was supposed to join, had the task of "protecting American trade *in such remote lands from the interference caused by Lord Cochrane's ships.*"

For some reason, Poletika did not doubt at the same time that the expedition of Commodore Stuart, which was already supposed to have a lot of trouble, would also explore the northwestern coast of America, although the envoy himself made the reservation: "It is unlikely that ... the Americans have taken *any a serious attempt to settle on the northwestern coast ... "*

I personally see Poletika's warning as more of a subtle psychological pressure on Russia on the eve of the adoption of a new RAC statute... Pressure exerted through Poletika with the aim of somewhat cool Russian enthusiasm and determination: they say, it's not really necessary for the Russians to "roll out lip" - the Yankees are already claiming almost dominance in the Pacific Ocean, and the Russians, they say, need to behave respectively...

In fact, the forty-six-year-old English Admiral Thomas Cochrane, later Earl of Dundonald, at that time was the commander of the naval forces not of England, but of Chile (in 1823-1825 he commanded the "insurgent" Brazilian fleet, and in 1827-1828 - already the Greek fleet). The British then (let us remember their patronage of Miranda) helped, of course, the "freedom fighters" in Latin America. But how the Chilean fleet could seriously interfere with American trade is hard for me to understand ...

That is, all these were such tricky games that it would be appropriate for Russia to simply shake shoulders and move forward along a historical path that is reasonable for it and determined by it itself.

Nevertheless, Poletika "signaled" and at the same time "warned" the directors of the RAC that *"the best precaution they could take against the American adventurers would be ... to streamline the patrol service in the ports of the various possessions of the Company after proper preparation for defense"*.

It all sounded—taking into account the lethargy of the state position of Russia—a mockery. And Poletika also mockingly advised the RAC not to forget about *"constant efforts to win over, as far as possible, the native population living on lands subject to the Company."*

This "subject to the Company..." in the mouth of the Russian diplomat instead of "subject to the Russian Empire..." especially "touched me"... Like his advice, although he knew perfectly well that it was not our inability to live with the natives, but provocations secretly encouraged by Washington already because he never officially condemned them, but simply shrugged - I, they say, am not me, and the horse is not mine, and I cab...

But that's not all... At the end of the September dispatch, Poletika completely reported and wrote in a tone that would be more understandable in an American response note to us: *"As for the difficulties that Messrs. directors are often met by the Americans, then they must finally understand to themselves that the government of the United States is not only not involved in this, but is also incapable of correcting the situation. All negotiations, explanations, and even written agreements on this point will lead to nothing, for such is the nature of governments, both Republicans and Federalists. Thus, our American company can only rely on its own forces (and the strength of Russia, what does not count anymore? - S.K.) in order to get rid of penetration*

American adventurers in her settlements..."

What happened? Official Washington sent us threatening notes, American newspapers screamed ... And Poletika assured us that, in addition to all this, the US government had no no relation...

And the question is, how can one deal with a government for which even "written agreements" with it will initially be an empty piece of paper?

It turned out that the law was not written for the Yankee government, and it understands only the right of force. That is, the United States does not recognize law, but force! And only with real force, and not with papers, is Russia able to assert its legal rights in America...

But Poletika didn't write this... But he was making an official report to his foreign affairs agency. And he simply had to not offer the Foreign Ministry "answer" wording

for the RAC, but directly insist on measures of powerful state opposition on the part of Russia to the encroachments of the United States as the only way to eliminate these encroachments ...

For some reason, the Russian envoy asked for information on the RAC, allegedly in order to protect the interests of the RAC. And he immediately signed his own impotence to protect its (or rather, Russian) interests: "I ... *believe that a firm but restrained (?? - S.K.) position in all cases where the rights of the Company will be clearly violated by the Americans, will do more good than all the conciliatory efforts of the imperial mission in Washington.*

N-yes.

The last phrase of the September 1821 dispatch of Poletika was the following: "*But first of all, we need a well-established internal patrol service and defensive measures that would have a deterrent effect.*"

How he would later insist on the Russian right to patrol his own waters and protect the interests, in the language of the Decree of September 4, "only Russian subjects", we already know from the results of his St. Petersburg negotiations with the Yankees on the Russian-American convention. Yes, I will talk about this later and again.

I will say...

Besides, did he not understand that a private Company (even if under the highest patronage) cannot fight or counteract by armed force at sea even the poaching vessels of a foreign power? This is where government action is needed. And Poletika actually offered Russia to leave the RAC to the mercy of fate and the Yankees ...

Here, dear reader, this was the background of 1821-1822, on which our retreat began from their own "American" conquests.

It is POSSIBLE that one of the "springs" that ensured the return of Russia from the positions declared by it in the fall of 1821 was an agreement signed on May 17 (29), 1822 in London by our ambassador Lieven with ... Nathan Meyer Rothschild on the placement of a loan for the Russian court 43 million silver rubles at five percent per annum.

According to our most interesting researcher Boris Vasilyevich Ananyich, already in the second half of the 18th century, court bankers began to play a "noticeable role" in the business life of the empire. Ananyich writes that Fredericks, a native of Holland, "mediated one of the first Russian foreign loans by Catherine II (it would be interesting to know when Russia "swallowed" a foreign loan for the first time? - S.K.) with the Amsterdam bankers Raymond and Theodor de Smet.

Then such a role was played by the Englishman Sutherland, who "brought" Russia to the Amsterdam bank Gope and Co., but in 1791 Suterland went bankrupt and committed suicide. Or maybe not by itself ... Who knows them there, international bankers ...

In 1798, the Russian government converted its "Dutch" loans and signed a general obligation for 88,300,000 Dutch silver florins at 5% per annum with an obligation to repay the debt within 12 years.

I note that Russia did not always trust the dark bankers. In 1721, after Russia's victorious end to the Northern War, the Polish king and Elector of Saxony August II approached Peter with the idea of dividing Poland between Saxony, Prussia, Austria and Russia with the help of the project of the bankers Lehmann and Meyer. According to the connoisseur of the Petrine era, Professor Nikolai Nikolaevich Molchanov, "the dexterity, wealth, connections of these businessmen, who acted on the scale of many countries, created a reputation for them as uncrowned rulers, capable of influencing states more effectively than official kings" ...

Well, they weren't the first! Jakob Fugger's guilders turned out to be the most important factor in the election of the Spanish king Charles I as the German king and emperor of the Holy Roman Empire under the name of Charles V as early as the beginning of the 16th century!

And it didn't even start with Fugger....

However, Peter's bankers didn't "break off" ... He is in a purely Peter's, that is, open, full of dignity and nobility, contemptuously rejected the "fictions of idle people" and

declared that they were "disgusting to God, conscience and fidelity" ... As Molchanov subtly and accurately notes, Peter understood that Russia would receive new lands at the cost of absorbing Poland by three German states. And this was by no means in the interests of Russia.

Alas, Peter's successors were far from always so far-sighted and choosy. And they resorted to the help of foreign bankers and external loans more than once.

Alexander was no exception. It is believed that the Russian economy and finances were upset by military spending, wars, a continental blockade ... However, Alexander expressed his intention to borrow from the "Batavian Republic" (Holland) already in May 1802.

And the loan from Rothschild was not his first loan abroad. On September 12 (24), 1820 in London and September 16 (September 28) of the same year in Amsterdam, Minister of Finance Guryev concluded an agreement with the banking houses "Bering and K o" and "Gope and K o" on the conditions for granting Russia a loan of 28 million rubles silver secured by Russian government bonds in the amount of 40 million.

Francis Bering was the chairman of the English East India Company, but even then he looked around the whole planet, because he was making money on colonial robbery ... Later, his heirs will take a leading role in the export of capital also to South America.

As for Nathan Rothschild, in his letters to Dmitry Alexandrovich Guryev he expressed his ardent desire to be useful to the Russian government. Well, just don't feed Rothschild with bread - so he sought to increase our power ...

All these "guardians" for Russia did not improve not only the financial situation, but also the situation political, including foreign policy.

Of course, for a number of reasons, we were not very good with money, and, say, the ordinary state revenues of Russia in 1822 fell to 391 million rubles compared to 447 million rubles in 1821.

Nevertheless, the amount of approximately 400 million rubles impresses me personally. Having such an income, with skillful spending, it was possible even in monarchical Russia to do without the Rothschilds with the gope ... Later I will give one somewhat stunning testimony of a contemporary of the events about the domestic economic situation in Russia in the 1910s, but now I will say that it was by no means so sluggish and gray, as we most often imagine it to ourselves (because it is so presented to us).

Here is such a detail... After the abolition of the protectionist **Russian** customs tariffs of 1810 and 1816 and their replacement by the free trade (that is, allowing "free trade") tariff of 1819, festivities were given **in London** on this occasion.

Not in Petersburg, but in London! Still - the already stopped English factories came to movement, and "the working people," as a contemporary writes, "got employment at the expense of Russia"...

Well, how can you not lend to the government, which allows others to strengthen at the expense of its strength and

by creating problems for yourself to solve other people's problems?

It was possible to sharply and quickly increase state revenues in various ways - for example, by carrying out long overdue social reforms, the same liquidation of serfdom. But in any case, the option of Russia's natural monopolization of the world fur market would be very useful.

The decree of September 4 paved the way to it. To deprive the Anglo-Saxons of poaching income means increase your income accordingly. You look - and Rothschild would not be needed ...

And I, DEAR reader, am not drinking some kind of gag here, although what is written above, written even before I learned about the existence of Vasily Nikolaevich Verkh's note.

And before getting acquainted with Verkh's data, one can draw a conclusion about the special importance of "fur" income for Russia it was easy to come, but the Top put everything in its place with genuine knowledge of the situation.

His name has already appeared on these pages when I wrote about that expedition, which is called the Billings Expedition and which

in fairness it should be called the Sarychev expedition. Here I will add that Russian sailors named an island in the Barents Sea after Verkh. This was done by Litke in 1822. In 1833, he named the cape on the southern island of Novaya Zemlya in the Kara Sea Cape Verha Pakhtusov.

Forty-two-year-old retired captain-lieutenant (later - colonel) Vasily Verkh, a participant in the first Russian "circumnavigation", historian, analyst, at that time - an official of the Admiralty Department, on the eve of the end of the Russian-American negotiations on the status of the Bering Sea, he also gave to an acquaintance to us, Admiral Mordvinov, then Chairman of the Department of Civil and Spiritual Affairs of the State Council and President of the Free Economic Society, a note.

On February 20, 1824, Nikolai Semenovitch forwarded her to Nesselrode, reporting his own opinion: Russia has long-standing historical rights to the northwestern coast right up to the "Cordillera, or Stone (Rocky. - S.K.) *Mountains*", and English claims to limit our possessions coastal strip of 30-40 miles are not justified and damage the vital needs of Russian settlements.

Here it was in Russian, in the Petrovsky way, in the Lomonosov way!

Karl Nesselrode, on April 11, 1824, answered this thought of the admiral: "*We don't have that neither right nor opportunity*". But Mordvinov did not resemble the prototype of Gogol's Manilov.

Verkh's informational and analytical note, in modern terms, had a title that speaks for itself: "The news of the fur trade of the northwestern coast of America and that it belongs to the Russians from the polar limits to 50 ° N".

The top proved the need to preserve the regime of fishing and trade off the coast of Russian America, established by the Decree of September 4 ... But this was only one aspect of his research ...

The note was, again speaking in modern language, complex in nature and contained geopolitical and historical analysis, economic calculations, statistical data and - which is also important - was not alien to smart and evidence-based journalism.

Understanding perfectly well the importance of the printed word both for clarifying and for polluting the minds of the public, Berch analyzed the attacks of foreign journalists on the Decree of Alexander and argued, refuting them.

Berch noted that since the end of the 18th century, the northwestern coast of America had been intensively developed by the RAC, and this did not meet with any objections from foreign powers until the early 1920s.

XIX century. The RAC has invested significant funds in the development of these lands ...

"If enlightened Europe owes little to the Russians for geographical discoveries in different parts of the world, then it must be indisputably very indebted to her for the exact definition of the Kuril Islands, the Aleutian Islands, the Alaska Peninsula and the northwestern coast of America. In a word, all the shores of Asia and America, washed by the waters of the Great Ocean from the northern latitude of 50 ° to solid ice, were discovered and described with tireless activity by Russian navigators.

Well, we already know this, dear reader. But Vasily Nikolaevich also reported others - the most interesting things for us!

He wrote that before the issuance of the Decree of September 4, the RAC suffered such crushing losses from the smuggling trade in furs, which was carried out by American and British entrepreneurs, that by the 1820s it was on the verge of ruin. The competition of American merchants, who were especially active in extracting the skins of fur animals off the coast of Russian America, and then selling them in Canton, contributed to a sharp drop in prices for furs in the Chinese market ...

Here I will explain to the reader that the RAK fished in a businesslike way, with the expectation of reproducing the livestock of a game animal (I will later give direct evidence to this effect), and the Yankee poachers beat, of course, everything in a row, in a hurry and incited the natives to do the same. And already on this received momentary economic advantage over Russian industrialists both in the pace of fishing, and in the trade of especially valuable fur.

Yes, Berkh reported deadly facts: *"It can be unmistakably accepted that the citizens of the United States caused harm to the Russian and fur trade for more than fifty million rubles (and these were not "signature" paper, but full-weight gold rubles! - S.K.), because, according to the most reliable information, they took to Canton from 1790 to 1822 200 thousand sea and 100 thousand river beavers, which were collected not only above latitude 51 from the northwestern coast of America belonging to us, but even for the most part in those the very places where our villages are."*

But smuggled furs were exported not only to Canton, but also to Europe, to Asian and South American colonies of European powers!

Here it is - soft "gold", which was supposed to ensure the stability of the Russian economy and Russian finances, but which was stolen from Russia by American thieves.

And which the Nesselrods allowed to plunder ...

Here I will also cite the later, expressed already at the beginning of the 20th century, the opinion of the geopolitician Major General of the General Staff Vandam (Edrikhin): *"With the advent of these rivals in the fields, a real bacchanalia began. The precious sea beaver was exterminated, without disassembling either males or females or cubs. Until then, the natives, who had not known either rum or firearms, turned from peaceful hunters who worked in full agreement with the Russians into dangerous bandits. Hunting became less profitable and very dangerous ... "*

This estimate is already from some historical distance.

A contemporary of the events, Berch "loyally" declared: *"If the wise government had not hurried to protect our shores with two military courts against ... smuggling (here he meant both the fur trade and the arms and ammunition trade. - S.K.), then in two or three years the Russian-American Company would have been destroyed, all our colonies would have disappeared ... "*

But the "wise government" was already mending pens for putting down signatures under the capitulation convention with the States ...

But Berch, at the end of his note, made a completely logical conclusion: the rights of Russians in Russian America are undeniable, and the Russian government can manage the area as it sees fit...

The author of the note intended to publish it in one of the St. Petersburg magazines. He, of course, was supported by Mordvinov, and even such a person, who was not clear to me, as the Minister of Finance, Yegor Frantsevich Kankrin, reacted to Nesselrode with a request for the possibility of publishing it.

Nesselrode delayed the answer, and on April 11, 1824, he answered Kankrin in the negative, which is not surprising - on April 5, that anti-Russian convention was concluded in the Russian capital, from the ideas of which Top's note did not leave stone unturned

And this long-standing fact - both the presence of the note and its non-publication - is by no means only of the most important historical significance. It provides information for quite topical reflections and in the XXI century!

Top's note has not been published to this day! However, today it may have already been destroyed. new "guardians" for Russia...

Full Russian jurisdiction over Russian America broke the distant geopolitical plans of powerful supranational forces. But it was also unprofitable for them in the near economic future. Therefore, they began to influence Alexander more and more actively ...

The story, alas, is familiar to us ...

HOW this is done in the current century, you can find out without referring to the archives. And in the last century it was done like this...

In April 1823, General Theil-fan-Seroskerken notified Secretary of State Adams of Russia's proposal to hold talks in St. Petersburg on the regime of navigation in the coastal waters of Russian America.

At the same time, Theil reassured Adams that the commanders of Russian warships cruising in these waters were instructed to refrain from actions arising from the exact observance of the provisions of the Decree of September 4th.

Soon Adams replied that Monroe was ready to negotiate and the authority to conduct them would be given. Ambassador to Russia Middleton.

American newspapers immediately began to spread rumors about Alexander's repeal of the Decree of September 4 (16), 1821. The tone of the articles was distinguished by reckless viciousness, and it was not I who assessed it that way, but Baron Theil in his report of June 24 (July 6), 1823. True, on June 30, the official Daily National Intelligencer refuted them and announced the upcoming negotiations in terms that were superficially respectful.

Three weeks after the dispatch of the first dispatch of 6 July (New Style), Teil is 24 July another dispatch for Nesselrode, using, as he himself defined, "a reliable opportunity" ...

This opportunity was US Chargé d'Affaires at the Swedish court Christopher Hughes, who was returning via London to Stockholm and "agreed" to capture, along with instructions to Middleton, in St. Petersburg also the dispatch of the Russian envoy.

Actually, to be precise, Adams himself suggested this "reliable opportunity" to Theil. The use of a diplomat of a state with which delicate negotiations are to be carried out as one's own diplomatic courier is generally bewildering, but let's put it all down to the difficulties with communication routes in the century before last. Although Adams' helpfulness looks, of course, very suspicious ...

And here the intention of the Yankees is already beginning to manifest itself and the laying is not very soft, and not to sleep

tough - so that's not a conversation at all ... In other words, Theil wrote this:

Here Theil discovered, of course, naivety, and the Yankee Adams was playing, as they say, vanka. But at the same time, the Yankees, who raised the banner of the Monroe Doctrine, began to show their teeth, which Theil noted: *"The American government will probably take advantage of the opportunity and demand that a general principle be established by virtue of which foreign powers would finally and forever pledge not to found new colonies in both parts of America."*

In reality, this should have been understood, of course, in such a way that the United States does not want Russia to strengthen only in one parts of America - in that in which Russia has possessions.

But in general, Adams behaved like an experienced fisherman - he either pulled the line, then let it go a little and assured Theil that "the imperial government may consider it necessary for itself to insist on maintaining an exclusive system" in the issue of Russian maritime jurisdiction ...

But at the same time, Adams handed Theil a plump folder with excerpts from the statements of well-known political figures and lawyers on the international legal aspect of taking possession of sparsely populated and uninhabited lands - Vattel, Puffendorf, and also Adams personally.

Naturally, all these "political thinkers", including Adams, proved the correctness of the United States and Russia wrong...

The DISPATCH of the current Russian envoy to the United States, Theil, with a "reliable opportunity" went to its destination. However, even before receiving it, on August 18, 1823, Nesselrode handed over to the former Russian envoy to the United States, real state councilor Pyotr Poletika, a document placing in the hands of Poletika the fate - formally - of negotiations on the regime of navigation in the North Pacific Ocean and the limits of Russian possessions, but in fact - the long-term fate and Russian America, and

Russian Pacific Policy.

The instruction concerned negotiations both with the US representative Middleton and with the English delegate - "Chevalier Bagot", since the negotiations were supposed to be tripartite.

Three years younger than Poletika, Charles Bagot was England's envoy to the United States in 1815-20, and from 1841 became Governor General of Canada. So he knew the subject of negotiations quite well, especially since he had been ambassador to St. Petersburg since 1820.

There was already a reason to talk about Henry Middleton ...

As an author, I often have to resort to extensive quoting, but in such cases I just do to the reader as I would like other authors to do to me when I myself act as a reader ...

And now I don't see a better way out than to give a meaningful part of the instructions of Nesselrode (that is, in fact, Alexander.) Politeka in the form of a simple quotation.

The head of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs instructed his subordinate: *"In order to know exactly the measure that should be observed when presenting our wishes, so that they can be fulfilled, we first need to find out exactly the intentions of England and the United States. With regard to England, then ... Your main task is to try to find out during your negotiations with Chevalier Bagot what degrees of latitude and longitude we can, without causing much difficulty, establish as the extreme limits of our territory ... what kind of delimitation England can offer and where she will try to expand the territory occupied by her companies: Northwest and Hudson's Bay."*

I am concerned here only with England ... **for according to the most reliable information and the latest**

maps can be considered proven that our territory can only come into contact with the territory where the English settlements are located, and that there is no doubt about our island possessions, as well as the Alaska Peninsula (emphasis mine here, and I hope the reader understands why I here he resorted to it. - S.K.), which, nevertheless, should be included in the list of territories belonging to Russia, if it comes to signing a delimitation treaty by us (there is nothing to object to - fixing the status quo by agreement was useful. - S .TO.).

As for the United States, since it does not appear to be inclined to debate on any territorial issues, we will most likely have to agree with them on the

affairs of our maritime jurisdiction along the coast ... Before we work out a trading system for our American colonies, it is important for us to know whether the United States can and intend to take measures against the unfriendly actions of their seafarers ... or we can expect that they will only passive cooperation, i.e. they will simply publish our respective regulations and fully agree with the principles on which they will be based."

In Poletika's instruction, it is significant that at first there was no question of the free admission of the Anglo-Saxons to the zone of Russian America for crafts, not only at the negotiations, but even in the secret instruction
- as a possible concession point ...

We need to understand and remember this firmly!

As possible concessions, the refusal of jurisdiction to the 51st degree of latitude and from the 100-mile restricted area.

It may also be noted that at the beginning British Minister Canning and Secretary of State Adams agreed to pursue a common line in tripartite negotiations. Moreover, sources say that Canning was counting on a common line where he assumed the interest of the States, that is, on the issue of freedom of robbery in Russian coastal waters. And he considered territorial problems a bilateral issue - Russian-English.

But it's not only dangerous to invite a famous animal to the table ... The Yankees, too, had a habit of lay out on the table (including negotiations) some peculiar arguments.

Here, too, the Russians had to make sure that far more than one freedom of navigation intended seek Washington from Petersburg ...

BEGOT received official powers from the English island, of course, earlier than Middleton from the American continent, but still on November 3, according to the old Russian style, Poletika reported to Nesselrode about the start of negotiations.

Middleton showed no interest in the territorial issue,

immediately raising the problem of the conditions of trade and fishing on the Russian coast of America.

Bagot, on the other hand, put forward territorial claims up to the 57th degree of northern latitude.

And the negotiation process "went" ...

The year 1824 has come.

On February 12, Poletika and Nesselrode in a note verbale (that is, in a written statement without a signature as an oral statement) invited Bagot to draw the border at the 55th degree.

On February 24, a second note verbale on delimitation followed.

The process was underway ... England put forward a new delimitation plan, but on March 17 it was rejected by Russia.

In the midst of all this, on February 28, Nesselrode asked the emperor for the highest command to the state-owned St. Petersburg factories to produce crystal and porcelain vases for a thousand rubles a year for the traditional annual gifts of the Governor-General of Eastern Siberia to the Chinese border rulers-ambans ...

Russian porcelain to representatives of the homeland of porcelain - this was a good achievement of Russian masters. But Russian diplomats at the tripartite talks on Russian America boast achievements could not ...

The Americans behaved like card cheats, continually distorting facts and logic, refuting own statements...

The Yankees, as we know, allegedly were not interested in the territorial issue. They were worried about the alleged right to trade. But they hunted the beast on the Russian islands, and the demand for free trade no longer infringed on the maritime jurisdiction of Russia, but on its jurisdiction over part of the national territory. And in the end, the Yankees and I had to "demarcate" in a contractual manner along the latitude of 54 ° 40'. At the same time, during the negotiations, they even claimed the 61st degree, as allegedly ceded to them by Spain under the Washington Treaty of 1819!

The British did not behave more honestly. On the contrary, they were supposedly worried only about the issue of delimitation by land ... But, as the reader may remember (and I will remind him soon and again), the Russian-English convention concluded a year later stipulated not only borders, but also the free trade of the British in our waters...

N-yes...

We were brazenly pressed, we sluggishly yielded. On March 25, Nesselrode, in a note to Middleton, melancholy notified the addressee that *"the emperor would like (that's how it is - it doesn't "require", but "would like ...". - S.K.) that weapons, ammunition and alcoholic beverages be excluded from the list of goods, the freedom of trade of which with the native population of the northwest coast of America would be established by Russia and the United States for a period of 10 years by a convention being prepared for conclusion by both parties..."*.

Nesselrode explained: *"As regards the prohibition of the trade in alcoholic beverages, the emperor ardently desires that it be announced, and has no doubt that Mr. Middleton and the government of the United States will react in the most favorable way to this wish, dictated by considerations of philanthropy and morality."*

So, it began with a tough position on geographic degrees, with a tough proclamation by the Decree of September 4 of the rights of exclusively Russian citizens, and ended ...

And it ended with humiliated requests for degrees of strong drinks.

Eh!

The FINAL came "on the day of April 5 (17) of the year of the Nativity of Christ 1824", when Count Karl Nesselrode, Peter Poletika and Henry Middleton "in the name of the most holy and inseparable trinity", "exchanging their powers, found by them in full and proper form", concluded and signed the "Convention between Russia and the United States on navigation, fishing, trade and settlements on the northwest coast of America" ...

Here I will directly quote the first four of her articles. Article five - about the ban on the import of weapons and alcohol and article six on the conditions for ratification are of no interest, but with what was

established by the previous conditions, it is better for the reader to get acquainted not in the author's transcription ...

Here is what was signed by those who cared about effective patrolling, about Poletik's security measures and his boss hung with two dozen Russian and European orders:

"Article One

It is decreed by common consent that in all parts of the Great Ocean, commonly referred to as the Pacific Ocean or the South Sea, citizens or mutual subjects of the high contracting parties may enjoy unhindered and with complete freedom of navigation, fishing and the right to land on the shores in such places as are still not employed, for trade with the natural inhabitants there, observing, however, the exceptions and rules explained in subsequent articles.

Article two

In order to prevent that the rights of navigation and fishing on the Great Ocean, granted to citizens and subjects of the high contracting parties, should not serve as a pretext for illegal trade, it is decreed that citizens of the United States may not pester in those places where a Russian village is located, without the permission of the ruler or chief there. , and likewise Russian subjects may not molest without permission in the villages of the United States on the northwest coast.

Article Three

Decides, moreover, that no settlements on the northwest coast of America and on any of the islands adjacent to the north of 54 ° 40 N, and also no settlements south of the same parallel line may be established by Russian subjects or under Russian rule.

Article Four

It goes without saying, however, that for a period of ten years, counting from the date of the signing of this convention, the ships of both powers, or such belonging to citizens or their mutual subjects, will be allowed mutually to enter without the slightest disturbance in all inland seas, bays, harbors and bays, located on the coast, indicated in the previous article, for the production of fishing there and trade with the natural inhabitants of that country.

So what, my dear reader, did the Russian Empire actually conclude and what did it allow
"April day at 5 (17) the summer of the Nativity of Christ 1824"?

And that's what!

The first article of the convention allowed the Yankees not only to Russian America, but even to Russian Eastern Asia. That is, they sacrificed national sovereignty.

Article two was mocking, because what kind of American poacher would pester a Russian settlement? And Russian subjects to pester without permission to the villages of the United States on the northwestern coast, not only there was no need, but also the opportunity - due to the lack
those.

Article Three was vile on the part of the United States, if only because they kept babbling about
disinterest in the territorial issue, and here you are, completely satisfied with
to their most brazen claims on the issue of maritime jurisdiction, they also achieved our concessions on the delimitation.

In addition, this article in the future could give rise to the question of the status of Fort Ross ... And Fort Ross is

was not just a "status" village, high hopes were pinned on it as a promising base for the food self-supply of Russian America.

And one more remark on article three ... Already after the conclusion of the convention, on May 28, 1824, Nesselrode, in relation to the Minister of Finance Kankrin, justified the need for it by the fact that, by signing it, the United States themselves recognized "the previously disputed legitimate power that Russia has over these territories.

But forgive me, because the Yankees raised, as far as I remember, a fuss about only one sea jurisdiction over navigation and trade? This is once...

And two - if they recognized the legitimacy of our rights in Russian America, then how could they insist on conclusion of an agreement that clearly infringes on our sovereignty in this part of Russian possessions?

Yes, and remember what Nesselrode wrote to Poletika in the instructions for negotiations ...

N-yes...

Article Four, which looked like some kind of Russian achievement, in fact only encouraged unbridled American predation and undermined the RAC's revenues due to the formally temporary nature of the convention. Well, indeed, if Russia allowed the Yankees to rapine for only ten years, then there was no doubt that all this time they would be engaged in robbery in all "Uncle Sam's" ...

By the way, I draw your attention to the fact that there was no talk of the right to fur trade in the convention, but what was there ... And so everything was clear - the Yankees did not go to the cold for whales and cod Russian northern waters...

In fact, the articles of the Convention were very vague and gave rise to different interpretations. The "enchanted member" of the literary society "Arzamas" Poletik did not find literary love for the accuracy of expressions here.

And here I allow myself to quote myself: "In broad daylight, without suffering any defeat from the United States and without fear of such a threat, in the rank of the winner of the great Napoleon, the Russian Empire allowed the Yankees to rob themselves, if not on the high road, then on the Big, Great Ocean ... »

However, the formal non-inclusion of the right to fur trade in the treaty articles gave Russia grounds to quickly terminate the Convention in the event of Yankee predation or simply drown poachers if the US authorities did not take tough measures against them (although what real measures could there be then!).

The 1824 CONVENTION concluded with the USA, it would seem, automatically removed the question of demarcation with England. After all, Russia has already retreated to a latitude of 54 ° 40'. On one side of this conditional line - to the north was the Russian archipelago of Alexander, and to the south - the English islands of Queen Charlotte.

So, to each his own?

No!

And the negotiations between Poletika and Bagot stalled, and resumed only in the winter of 1825, for which Stratford Canning, the cousin of the English Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Foreign Minister) George Canning, arrived in St. Petersburg on a special mission.

Prior to his appointment as negotiating delegate, Canning Jr. was envoy to Washington. He had to draw experience from where, information too. And everything soon went along the already knurled track - on February 16 (28), 1825, the Russian-English Convention was concluded.

And here is another remark in brackets ...

Much later, in Soviet times, the agreement with the United States was defined by "historians of the Central Committee of the CPSU" as the Convention "on navigation, fishing, trade and settlements on the northwestern coast of America." But this agreement also determined the territorial delimitation.

And the agreement with the British by the same historians was called the "Convention between Russia and Great Britain on the delimitation of possessions in North America", although it, like the previous the agreement with the Yankees, far from touched only the borders, but also opened the way to Russian possessions for English grabbers from the Hudson's Bay Company and the North-West Company, and simply free adventurers.

So, in the beginning, strange numbers were obtained with priorities in real time, during the St. Petersburg negotiations! Not negotiations, but a circus! The main thing for them is navigation, then borders. That - the right to catch, then - the right to trade. As a result, we observe either - tricks with an illusionist's hat, then whether - deft juggling, or - subtle training of a Russian partner ...

And the same strange reversals of emphasis in defining the essence of documents are observed through a century and a half of Soviet historians.

At the same time, the same historians, in the thick XIV volume of the collection of documents "Foreign Policy of Russia in the 19th and early 20th centuries," did another trick in the manner of the text of the Decree of September 4 already demonstrated during the "publication" (petite annotation with a reference to a rare source of 1830).

This time they gave a petite annotation of the Russian-English Convention, citing the fact that its full (six-page) text had previously been published in the publication of F. Martens "Collection of treaties and conventions concluded by Russia with foreign powers", published in St. Petersburg in 1878-1895.

Here is the abstract in full:

"A demarcation line is being established between the possessions of both contracting parties on the continent and islands of North America; the rules of trade, navigation and fishing (again! - S.K.) trades for Russian and British subjects in the border areas are determined.

Sparsely ... And this, of course, is another example of malicious historical silence.

I never got the full text of the Convention ... However, I promised to remind and remind you that the Russian-English Convention of 1825, even more definitely than the Russian-American Convention, ignored the sovereignty of Russia and gave English courts the right to "navigate forever freely ... on all rivers and streams , which, flowing into the Pacific Ocean, cross the demarcation line within the coastal strip north of 54 ° 40 north latitude.

And therefore, the results of the negotiations of 1824-1825 with the USA and England had to be defined as a catastrophe - if not a catastrophe, then a future one, which must happen sooner or later ... Unless, of course, Russian policy towards Russian America is radically changed.

WHEREAS, the highest Russian authorities were warned about the future catastrophe directly, unambiguously and long before it broke out in 1867.

It looked like this...

Shortly after the conclusion of the Russian-American Convention of 1824, the Main Board of the RAC sent report No. 346 to the Minister of Finance, General Kankrin. It was dated May 14 (Russian style) 1824 and began like this:

"His Excellency, Mr. Manager of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (that is, Nesselrode. - S.K.) deigned to personally announce to Mr. Director Severin that a special convention was concluded with the North American Republic on the 5th of last April, which, by the way, establishes a new limit for settlements and trades of our Company in America and the citizens of the said republic are given for 10 years the right to carry out any kind of fishing in our waters and trade directly with the coastal inhabitants; therefore, a joint partnership is allowed, which completely changes the 2nd article of the highest privileges granted to the Company on the 13th day of October 1821 and paragraph 56 of the rules approved by the highest for the Company.

These two points have hitherto been the main foundation and essential support of the Company; without them it could neither be formed nor exist.

The last phrase was saturated with bitterness, the whole report was saturated with bitterness and fatigue.
No. 346...

The leading director Mikhail Buldakov, directors of the Company Andrey Severin and Ivan Prokofiev, the head of the office Kondraty Ryleev, whose signatures were witnessed by the head of the table Alexander Ostrogorsky, reported to the minister that on May 10 the Council was meeting, "established with the highest authority at the Company", and that he, with a "feeling of loyalty to gratitude to the august monarch" accepted the decision of the king to limit trade with foreigners in the possessions of the RAC to one port - Novo Arkhangelsk, where the entire exchange would take place under the control of the RAC.

And now...

Yes, that's how it worked! As early as April 2, Alexander once again gave the RAC proof of his support, and three days later his plenipotentiaries surrendered all the stable prospects of the RAC "for root."

And now her General Board, in the hope that "the ratification of the treaty has not yet followed", tried to save the situation at least somehow and pushed:

"If previously any direct contact between foreigners and the peoples under the control of the Company could not be completely blocked, then at least it was considered an impermissible and even hostile act; consequently, it kept the foreigners who visited our waters within the limits of moderation, and turned others away altogether from sailing into such a remote, stormy and dangerous sea, where, moreover, they could not hope to obtain significant benefits in a permitted way.

Now, on the contrary, as soon as foreigners (and, moreover, those same ones who have always had reason to look with displeasure at the prosperity of our Company in America and did not miss chances to harm her secretly and openly) will have a legitimate right to enter into competition with the Company in the very trades of her the only source of its wealth, then not only those who have visited our shores and waters before, but also those who have never thought of such an enterprise, will rush there and, of course, will not miss the opportunity to unite to strengthen animal industries and direct trade with coastal residents ... In addition foreigners, motivated by commercial interests, will instill in the savages loyal to Russia an aversion to their former dependence on the Company ... "

All these new circumstances, stated the General Board, the Company "is nothing else in the future is not promised, except for its inevitable fall.

IN THE BEGINNING of June, the Main Board received no longer an oral notice from the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about the very fact of the conclusion of the Convention on April 5, but a copy of it. Nesselrode sent this copy to Kankrin on May 28 specifically for transfer to the RAC board.

The analysis of the text there did not take much time - after all, everything was on the surface, and already on June 12 on the table Kankrin laid down the "Note on the position of the Russian-American company under the convention of April 5".

This was the last RAC note before the ratification "funeral" of the Russian future in America. Its language is stinging, for it is a business document. And it is expressive at the same time, because the "Note ..." was, although officially filed, but - a cry from the heart ...

The Board of the RAC was addressed to Kankrin on the basis of the "65th article of the Company's rules approved on September 13, 1821", according to which they had the right to appeal to the "most merciful sovereign" through the Minister of Finance.

Here I will once again explain to the reader ... Of course, I could state this Note in my own words, but is it worth passing off the "quoted" text as my own? No, I want the reader to see clearly the basis on which the analysis is built, and I want the reader to think with me ...

Well, how can I deprive him of both the opportunity and the pleasure of touching directly the important and convincing document of the era, the era? And do I have the right to do so - after I myself touched them and got the opportunity to see long-standing events not in the distorted mirror of biased monographs, but through a window that opened directly at that time?

So, in a lengthy and well-thought-out paper, the same four people - Buldakov, Severin, Prokofiev and Ryleev (he appears on these pages for the second, but not the last time) reported that "The Board and the Main Board of the Company have delved into all the details of *this of such an important matter and due to its direct connection not only with welfare, but with the very existence of the Company, it is considered a duty ... to most humbly ask Your Excellency to honor your attention with the following circumstances:*

A. The exclusive right to trade and catch animals along the shores of Northwest America and the islands of the Eastern Ocean or the Pacific Sea, discovered long ago by Russian sailors, is the first basis not only for benefits, but also for the very existence of the Company.

B. With its establishment in 1799, a solemn act of the sovereign Emperor Paul I promulgated the right of possession of Russia both by these shores up to 55 degrees north latitude, and by the Aleutian and Kuril Islands. By the same act, the right to trade and fish was granted to the Company for twenty years, and by this act the joint venture of foreigners was removed.

C. For twenty-five years the right to possess Russia has not been challenged by anyone and the Company under the highest patronage enjoyed the privileges granted to her.

It happened temporarily that ships of subjects of the American States appeared there and carried out secret ... trade with natural inhabitants, but such attempts by private people ... like any secret and illegal trade are always associated with danger, and therefore could not be extensive, nor permanent (from a note Berch, we know that the losses from such activities of the Yankees were just significant, but below the reader will get acquainted with the apt figurative description of the situation given by the authors of the Note themselves, which shows that, compared with the future, the past seemed like a trifle. - S.K.) .

D. With the most merciful renewal of the Company's privileges in 1821, it was pleasing to protect the Company from these attempts as well by issuing special rules on the limits of navigation and the order of coastal relations along the coasts of Eastern Siberia and North-West America.

These rules forbid foreign ships from mooring on the shores and islands, subject to Russia, and to Kamchatka itself and approach them at a distance of a hundred miles.

E. This has been done in ways known to the government, but the General Board of the Company has never dared to ask for such a strong protection of its rights (I ask you to pay special attention to this circumstance, because it clearly shows that the Decree of September 4, 1821 had far more than "social" lining, but was primarily an act of great state sense, "strongly" protecting de jure the rights of the entire Russian state over the maritime region, which had long become de facto internal for it. - S.K.) ...

F...Thus, the Company has been enjoying for twenty-five years the exclusive right to trade with natural inhabitants and game trades along the coasts and islands of the North Eastern Ocean, and on this right alone its existence is based ... But the convention of April 5 significantly changes this state of affairs of the Company and will inevitably lead to its destruction.

G. Mr. Manager of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (that is, Nesselrode. - S.K.), in his correspondence with Admiral Mordvinov and with Your Excellency, refutes these fears with the following arguments:

- 1. Americans have long been trading ... and catching animals, because they do not recognize our right to remove them from this trade;*
- 2. Prohibition and until now, one might say, did not exist, because the Americans did not submit to it;*
- 3. It cannot be thought that they would prefer to trade with coastal wilds, and not with Russian colonies...*

Nesselrode's "arguments" looked not only ridiculous (taking into account the status of the "thinker"), not only helpless (taking into account, again, the status of the person who expressed them), but, above all, incompetent - given that they were expressed not just by the highest dignitary, but the manager of the Ministry **of Foreign Affairs**!

Ignoring by foreigners of the national law of the state as a justification for the refusal of the state from its rights? Such a view of a high-ranking **diplomat** was, first of all, proof, firstly, his lack of understanding of the essence of international law, secondly, a sign of his unpatriotism and indifference to the power of the state, and thirdly, evidence of his complete lack of service.

The directors of the RAC, of course, could not, even with a shadow of a thought, express something similar to what I said above, but they could convincingly answer the "arguments" of the chief of the Russian foreign policy departments.

And they answered:

"Not in the form of an objection to these arguments, but to explain them, we dare to present:

*1. The possession of the countries of the New World is based by Europeans on the right of first discovery and occupation. By this right, Russia also possesses the islands and the northwestern coast of America. **The non-recognition of this right by the American States does not destroy it** (I singled out this idea in order to better show that the directors of the RAC, not only in trade, but also in international law, knew better than the bearer of twenty magnificent orders, Karl Nesselrode. - S.K.). *The bargaining that they carried out in these places was considered hitherto an impermissible and even hostile act, and this kept and averted foreigners from spreading it ... they themselves never carried out animal fishing along the banks in the bays and near the islands, and throughout the entire existence of the Russian- For the American company, this fishing was carried out exclusively by the industrialists of the Company.**

2. The exclusive right granted to the Company in 1799 imposed a ban on trading in the designated places not only to foreigners, but also to Russian subjects who did not belong to

Companies (due to the semi-state nature of the RAC. - S.K.). This prohibition is even more definitely approved by the newly granted privileges and rules on the limits of navigation in 1821. Only self-willed violators of it, who rebel against all laws and in all parts of the world, did not submit to this prohibition, and just as smuggling, although it exists everywhere, does not destroy the forces of prohibition, so it cannot cause as much harm to the destruction of its own national industry as it threatens this free and all legally permitted bargaining. Here, let it be allowed to give a well-known analogy about the effect of smuggling, that it is impossible to smuggle through the gate what will be carried through the gate. (Oh, how accurate, juicy and good! And in this you can clearly feel the hand and style of Kondraty Ryleev. - S.K.).

3. Our company and colonies on the shores of North-West America exist in that they alone have the right to always and constantly hunt animals and trade with the indigenous people and, acquiring from them the furs and skins they get, sell and exchange to foreigners, including Americans who come to our villages for them. Allowing them to produce ... catching and trading ... will take away from the Company ... this only means of subsistence, for the Americans will certainly take advantage of the permission and will, firstly, hunt and catch the animals themselves and, secondly, it is preferable to acquire from the indigenous people themselves everything that what they received from the Company; because from the inhabitants they will receive cheaper ... "

Perhaps one detail needs to be clarified ... If in Russian Asia cunning merchants could solder, say, the Chukchi for the purpose of unequal trade exchange, then in Russian America RAC it was purely economically advantageous to pursue a line of clever civilizing. It was purely economically beneficial not to solder the local residents, but to gradually develop an educated and loyal to the Russian stratum among the natives - after all, among the RAC employees in its American colonies, the percentage of Russians was not so great even in large cities.

In addition, RAK was a semi-state enterprise and its activities were carried out taking into account government political considerations.

Therefore, let the reader not be confused by expressions in RAC documents such as "the dependence of savages on Companies...". This dependence was not to the detriment of the future of "natural inhabitants" ...

On the other hand, it was the Yankees who could undermine not only the prosperity of the RAC, but also the long-term source of food for the natives.

The RAK note also explained this:

"It cannot be left without remark that the Company, when catching sea animals, of which fur seals are the main trade item, while strengthening its trade, strictly observed in order to catch only young cats, leaving queens for offspring. Without this rule, in a few years, the whole industry would have been exterminated. But the Americans in foreign waters, where they are admitted for an urgent (for only 10 years! - S.K.) time, will not only have no reason to observe this caution, but will rush to the complete eradication of animals and achieve that. Thus, after ten years, the entire region, the severity of which is nothing but wealth in the abundance of animal industries, on which the lasting benefits of state trade are based, will turn into a barren desert (I note that the "Soviet historians" talked about the predation of the tsarist regime, which destroyed the seals, but the tsarist regime, as we see, only opened the way for the destruction of Russian wealth by the Americans, and they destroyed the industry, which the "historians" for some reason did not inform us about. - S.K.).

It was said in the Note dated June 12, 1824, and about undermining the Russian fur trade in Kyakhta ...

The authors of the Note understood that simply abandoning the already signed Convention and not ratifying it is most likely impossible. So they wrote like this:

"If it is necessary to make any deviation from the rules on the limits of navigation issued in 1821, then, in our opinion, it would be desirable for the Company's business to leave them in the position in which they were before 1821, and for this clarification or addition to Art. I and IV of the Convention to decide the following: that Article I excludes the coasts of Eastern Siberia and Kamchatka, as well as the Kuril, Aleutian, Kodiak islands and the coast of North-West America, starting from Unalashka, with the inclusion of Sitka, Novo-Arkhangelsk and up to 54 ° 40 where to this day Since ancient times, Russians have been doing their craft, although foreigners are allowed, and that, according to Article IV of the convention in this space, to swim and take refuge in places where there are settlements of the Company, as well as trade with the Company itself, and not with natural inhabitants, but catching animals, except for natural inhabitants, is exclusively provided to Russians.

The document was "loyal", and the authors could afford reproaches against the highest authority only "the most humble." That is, they could not afford them ... And they really only covertly, already at the end of the Note, gently reminded the tsar and his entourage that they were only asking for what the highest authority itself gave the Company at the beginning when it was founded in 1799, and then reinforced by a sovereign act of September 4, 1821, and that destroyed by the Convention of April 5:

"The Board of the Company feels in full measure all the difficulties that negotiation on new additions or explanations of the convention may be associated with, but how it does not seek either new rights or the extension of the former, and the desire to leave the matter in the position in which it was with 1799 up to the present, is based not only on the preservation of its own benefits, but on the prevention of general state losses, it does not dare to remain silent about the foreseen by it concerns..."

Alas, it was a crying voice in the capital, which (like Moscow of the 21st century) in the sense of responsiveness to the protection of genuine Russian interests, more and more turned out to be a desert ...

Moreover, Russians in the Russian capital were not only not heard. They were also bullied!

Even before the appearance of the RAC Note - when sending a copy of the Convention to Kankrin - Nesselrode expressed the hypocritical "hope" that the Minister of Finance would draw the attention of the directors of the Company "to the important benefits delivered to her by this convention" and try "to dissipate the arisen, perhaps, but, in my opinion (that is, Nesselrode - S.K.), completely unfounded fears or dissatisfaction..."

In my opinion, the reader, this fact alone is enough to accuse Karl Nesselrode of not only malicious, but also mocking neglect of state interests. And what can we say about his statement that the success of the ARAK will depend entirely on its diligence, as well as "tirelessness, prudence and meekness" in relations with local

residents...

Well, why are they, my dear reader, not only trying to rob us, but also trying to humiliate us at the same time?!

Yes, it is understandable, in general, why ...

Nevertheless, not only Nesselrods and other moral freaks and degenerates consisted Russian state power? Anger and questions abounded...

And Nesselrode was forced to play up. Not later than July 20, 1824, he submitted a report to Alexander, where

reported on his correspondence with Kankrin, on Mordvinov's remarks, on the Notes of the RAC (*"... the Company's business managers consider the act concluded with the North American States to be unprofitable for its trade, I tried with brief, but, as I dare to think, sufficient judgments to prove the groundlessness of the concerns expressed by the Company ..."*) and the RAC's request to explicitly exclude Eastern Siberia, Kamchatka, the Kuriles, the Aleutians and Alaska up to Novo-Arkhangelsk from the Convention Area.

Nesselrode was squirming, and this is also evident from the fact that the new attitude towards Kankrin, on the drafting of which he hastened to report to the tsar, was **drawn up** in July, and **sent** to the addressee only on August 18. Such an "inexplicable" delay in itself explains almost everything!

In this new message, the Foreign Ministry chief wrote, among other things, that already in 1801 "there were up to 16 large foreign ships in the seas there, including 15 American ones (I wonder who counted them then? - S.K.)" that "against the resolution issued in 1799, there were no protests solely because our cabinet did not communicate it to others, but from the very beginning of direct relations between Russia and the United States of North America, disputes about the affairs of our Company almost did not stop (but with such disputes, if they were, it was impossible not to refer to the Decree of Paul for 1799. - S.K.)", and there was much more like that there ...

However, Nesselrode was outright lying, and even more so, he was wrongfully silent.

So let's go over the situation again...

UNFORTUNATELY, you cannot insert every interesting document into the text, and therefore I will only inform the reader about the existence of an instructive and informational (not in name, but in essence) letter of the Main Board of the RAC dated August 20, 1808 known to us

Andrey Dashkov, who has been appointed Consul General in Philadelphia and is leaving for the United States. The company made him a correspondent member for the occasion.

And I mentioned this letter because only from it I understood why a certain demarcation confusion in America.

The Anglo-Saxons first appeared in the RAK settlements around 1792, having already found Russians there, of course. And taking into account the fact that the British and Americans came to the North-West of America after us, it would seem that there could not be a conversation about the disputed rights!

However, there was one subtle point in determining the boundaries of our possessions. Even in 1808, Baranov, it turns out, had an instruction: it is evasive to answer about "the borders of Russian ownership". Foreigners curious about this, "coming on business," were ordered to briefly cut off that they "have no right to ask such questions," and officers of foreign fleets - that "there are no orders from the court about this" ...

And the same letter informed Dashkov: *"Having announced to you the features of Russian possessions, the Board deems it necessary to add that the Russian government has not yet had relations and treaties about their borders and future occupations with the governments of other powers, but considers as its property everything that is now a company occupied and will henceforth be occupied by the right of discovery and*

independence of those places.

Actually, there was nothing to worry about. Spain did not negotiate their rights with Russia, say, to Cuba, Holland to Java, England to India and France to Martinique...

But by that time, the "Boston" activity had already assumed such dimensions that it caused us a loss of a million rubles a year. And it made sense to protect our rights with treaties.

But - to protect them, not to hand them over!

And in the still "pre-non-seldom" times, on May 1, 1808, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Commerce, Rumyantsev, asked Alexander in writing for permission to negotiate with the American Consul General Harris about "taking appropriate measures" and establishing such rules for the trade of Americans in Russian America, "as it exists in other European colonies in both Indias."

And the king gave such a sanction.

On May 17, 1808, Rumyantsev sent a note to Harris, which dealt with the need to conclude an agreement and streamline trade in Russian possessions in America so that it would go only with a company authorized by the Russian government ("... barter trade was carried out exclusively on Kodiak and was carried out through agents companies").

Already two days later, on May 19, Harris, in a note in reply, expressed "sincere satisfaction" with the proposal that would put an end to "violations of the rules", and promised at the first opportunity to bring to his government "the contents of this interesting note, to which it will give its full attention, what is she deserves"...

The question, however, "hung", and the Yankees became impudent ... But even in China they are illegal - from the point of view of the Chinese - they did not trade then.

One could hope that something would improve after the appointment of a certain Short as US envoy to Russia. But the fate of his envoy turned out to be fully consistent with the surname ("Short" in English - "short"). In April 1809, he was already in Paris, but on April 17 he sent a note to our ambassador Kurakin with the message that the US Senate had decided to refuse to appoint an envoy to St. Petersburg.

In the meantime, Andrei Yakovlevich Dashkov, who reached Washington on July 12, 1809, raised the issue of concluding a trade agreement at the first meeting with President Madison. And Madison seemed to be not averse to it - during the protocol conversation.

And then everything went bad. The Yankees got it all. Dashkov repeatedly protested and tried to get some intelligible answer from Washington. From January to March 1810, Dashkov met with US Secretary of State Smith seven times.

In October 1809, he sent a letter to Baranov, where he reported that after getting acquainted with the US Constitution, he was convinced that the US government could not prohibit its citizens from trading anywhere. was with anyone.

That's right, but then did this government have the right to take under its protection those of its citizens who who broke other people's laws? And it is unlikely that the Yankees traded uncontrollably with the colonies of other powers.

At the same time, Dashkov (and later Palen) reported that it was more realistic to agree on a trade regime with Astor's Fur Company. On April 20 (May 2), 1812, the RAC indeed entered into a four-year convention with its American Fur Company.

Yankees are Yankees. On December 20, 1812, the board of the Astor company approved the convention, but was not going to implement it, and after the expiration of its validity (more precisely, inaction), there was no renewal. Washing my hands, I will inform you that RAC did have some real trade exchange with Astor. But the very fact of non-renewal of the agreement shows the meagerness of this exchange.

Nevertheless, all this time, although an element of uncertainty with the boundaries of Russian possessions existed, it was only in the zone of very "southern" degrees of northern latitudes. So, in negotiations with the Astor company, RAK sought the right to jointly fish in Oregon, in the Columbia River area. But everything that was north of the 55th degree was recognized as ours without any doubt by both sides.

And in November 1809, Dashkov in another dispatch informed the Minister of Foreign Affairs Rumyantsev: *"I will not speak otherwise in my relations with the local government about all the wild (that is, about non-peaceful Tlingit Indians (Kolosh) and others. - S.K.), about our villages on the northwestern shores of America and on the islands that are acquired, as being under the power of the Russian Empire (that is, as Russian subjects. - S.K.), and about their attacks on our villages and about the harm caused by them by means of weapons delivered by the Americans, as about rebels ... "*

And such a statement of the question did not cause any protesting reactions in Washington ...

There were no objections to this account from our acquaintance Adams, who since October has become 1809, finally, the first US envoy to Russia ...

At the end of 1810, Alexander also appointed the first Russian envoy to the United States - a real Chamberlain Count Palen.

In his instruction to Palen of December 27, 1809 (January 8, 1810), countersigned "Chancellor of the Empire" Count Rumyantsev, the emperor noted:

"As you know, several years ago, some Russian merchants, under my patronage, founded a society that bears the name of the American Company ... I want you to do everything in your power ... to support it before the government of the United States ... The Chancellor will send you a copy of the note handed here to the Consul General United States on the question of the smuggling trade conducted from American ships with the natives of Russian possessions in America.

Since then, such documents have appeared periodically, and if there were fewer of them than could be, then there were a number of reasons. And among them, not the last place was occupied by the sabotage of Nesselrode - firstly, and the frequent absences of American envoys in St. Petersburg - secondly ...

What is written above, contemporaries of those ancient events, involved in these events, was known, of course, better than the author. Moreover, the interested participants in the events from the RAC had little time, and although Nesselrode's officially provocative "paper" in July 1824 was still in the Foreign Ministry, it was known about its preparation.

And somehow it was necessary to react and decide something - the trampling of

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the most important Russian rights ...

OBVIOUSLY, therefore, the very next day - July 21, 1824, at the direction of the king, gathered "conference" of a specially constituted committee to consider the state of affairs...

The committee included Nesselrode, Kankrin, member of the State Council Speransky, director of the Chancellery of the Ministry of Finance Druzhinin and Poletika...

Characteristically, neither Admiral Mordvinov, nor the former envoy to the United States Dashkov, nor Count Rumyantsev were invited to this conference. But all of them would be useful here ... There were no military sailors at the conference ...

The Committee got acquainted with the draft of Nesselrode's attitude to Kankrin, with the Notes of the RAC, and on the same day came to almost total agreement.

What the members of the committee agreed on, I will state mainly in my own words, because Ryleev was not at the conference, and in the difficult periods of its protocol, the draft of which was obviously prepared at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I myself understood not without difficulty.

In general, we decided that:

1. *"The condition of April 5 (17) affirms for Russia the rights that have hitherto been questioned" ... With*

It was silent on this that, as I have already emphasized, prior to the start of negotiations, the Yankees did not have any such doubts didn't even stutter. Nevertheless, the protocol stated that the United States showed us almost a great favor here, because, they say, our rights could be *"disputed with great profit and harmed with great convenience."*

2. That since the Convention has banned the sale of alcoholic beverages and weapons, then there will be no life, but spread raspberries.

3. That the RAC should also rejoice over the Yankees' refusal to settle on the northwest coast (where they did not settle for a long time).

4. That in ten years the RAC and Russia will not have to worry about anything at all, because the Yankees will leave our waters, but our rights to these waters will remain (this was nonsense both due to the urgency of the Convention and vagueness - I'm sure intentional - its formulations).

5. As for the Kyakhta trade, it was stated that the RAC participates in it for 800,000 rubles out of the total turnover (for some reason, the total Russian-Chinese turnover was given) of 50 million rubles, and this, they say, is nothing.

6. Since *"Russian power over the shores of Siberia and the Aleutian Islands has long been recognized by all powers,"* the protocol also said, *"the aforementioned coasts and islands could not be mentioned in the articles of the above condition, which applies only to disputed lands in the north - the western coast of America and the adjacent islands ..."*

By stating this, the would-be analysts from the Foreign Ministry could hardly have clearly answered the question, what official acts can they confirm the recognition of Russian rights to the Aleuts by "all powers" and how our "recognized" rights to the Aleuts differ from our allegedly disputed rights to Alaska, Kodiak? And why, having begun - for no apparent reason - to challenge our rights to Alaska, the Yankees keep quiet about the more southern Novo-Arkhangelsk and the entire Alexander Archipelago? Is it not because (and it was exactly so!) that Novo-Arkhangelsk was then the only civilized center in the vast northern Pacific zone, and only there the Yankees could get help in case of need or trouble?

The minutes of the conference arrogantly swept aside all the anxieties and doubts of the RAC, but unanimity among I could not record the minutes of the members of her committee.

On the contrary, I had to fix the opposite ...

The committee consisted of five people ... It can almost certainly be asserted that Nesselrode and Poletika "played", girded with leather aprons, that is, on the side of the Yankees ...

Mikhail Speransky never really hid his "apron" inclinations, which once again confirmed, unconditionally taking the side of two supposedly Russian diplomats ...

Egor Frantsevich Kankrin attached to the protocol such a dissenting opinion, which was equivalent, in fact, to the refusal to sign, which he could directly refuse only at the cost of resignation from a post they recently received.

Kankrin wrote:

In other words, Kankrin, on the one hand, admitted the harm of the convention, but on the other, he evasively shrugged his hands: they say, in my part - nonsense and harm, but what about the part of foreign policy, let gentlemen diplomats figure it out for themselves, they, they say, and geographical cards in hand...

As for the fifty-three-year-old real state councilor Yakov Alexandrovich Druzhinin (who became a member of the RAC council since 1925), he was, of course, more embarrassed in expressing his true opinion than his boss Kankrin, but he, although he signed the protocol without much

opinion, considered it necessary to recall in writing the request of the RAC to specify the geographical objects excluded from the scope of the Convention of April 5 ...

- As a result, the protocol noted the need to explain to the Yankees that the right to trade with the natives and trap fish and sea animals in the coastal waters of Russian America, granted to them by the Convention on April 5 (17), extends only to the area located between 59 ° 30 N . (Yakutat Bay) and 54°40 N.L. (southern border).

If this were so, then the Aleuts, Alaska, the Pribylov Islands and other...

Alas, the story with this concretization finally showed and proved both the hypocrisy of the Yankees and the actual betrayal of Petersburg diplomats.

The requirement for an exact indication of the geographical area was forced to be written down in the minutes of July 21, insofar as the conference could not simply brush aside the opinion of the Ministry of Finance (Kankrin also insisted on specifying).

Therefore, on August 16, 1824, even Nesselrode was forced, in accordance with the protocol of July 21, to send a dispatch to Washington Teilu-fan-Seroskerken. In this dispatch, the Russian envoy was instructed to declare to the US government during the exchange of instruments of ratification that:

- the imperial government does not believe that the coast of Siberia and the Aleutia is a ten-year permit for fishing, hunting and trade;

— starting from 59°30 N on the northwest coast of America, Russia will not allow foreign ships to come closer than two nautical miles to the coast, nor to engage in hunting, fishing, or trading with the natives.

Such clarification was correct, but this should have been achieved earlier - before the signing of the Convention. Moreover, such a turn of affairs did not suit the United States in any way, which had to get into our pocket to the very bottom!

In fact, here we can assume - with all the complexity of the messages of that time - mutual collusion between the Nesselrode clique and the Adams clique.

Well, indeed, the protocol of July 21 stipulated that Theil *"should mention this last proposal* (regarding the "geography" of the Convention. - S.K.) *not before when he was sure that it would be accepted for good and that this the proposal will not prevent the government of the United States from approving the condition on April 5 (17).*

But how could one believe that the Yankees would be delighted with our explanation? In addition, Nesselrode ordered that it be given during the exchange of instruments of ratification, that is, he suggested that Theil wave fists after a fight...

By this, he formally saved his face before the tsar and Russia, but achieved nothing in essence. Moreover, the way events unfolded in Washington allows, as I said, to assume even collusion.

And the fact that everything turned out to be insulting and humiliating for Russia is beyond doubt ...

A DEPOSIT dated August 16 (28) was delivered to Washington by young Achilles Shabelsky, second secretary of the mission in Philadelphia. And he delivered it on November 23 (December 6), 1824.

Theil went to Adams the very next day. Just on this day, another one was opened congress session.

Mr Adams! Our American company, after signing the April condition, filed so many complaints that his majesty the emperor hopes to find understanding with you ... The point is this ...

And Theil began to tell Adams about what we already know, that is, that it is necessary to more precisely and specifically determine the area of application of the Convention. At the same time, Theil emphasized that Russia does not intend to restrict the freedom of navigation, but only emphasizes that it does not intend to allow the uncontrolled presence of foreign ships in coastal (properly territorial) waters.

Adams, although he was reputed to be an irritable person, listened attentively, without interrupting, with an expression of peace and even benevolence ...

And when he listened, he kindly replied:

- Mister Baron! If you had delivered such a note at the exchange of letters, you could not have evoked on our part any other answer than the following: "The Government of the United States is not vested with the power to give its own interpretation of the convention ... everything is decided by Congress, and in doubtful cases by the judicial body of the Union ... Once ratified, the convention becomes law, and the government can change nothing from then on."

"Yes," I note, the author, "they invented a separation of powers overseas, of course, not stupid ... It was always possible for Ivan to nod at Peter, Petra - at Ivan, Adams - at Monroe, Monroe - at the Congress, congress - to court, and the court could say "no", but to "no", as you know, there is no trial ... "

As for Theil's interlocutor, he calmly warned with a movement of his palm the question of the Russian envoy and slowly continued:

- Therefore, your statement during the exchange of letters will not give anything ... If you report it before ratification, then the opponents of the Convention in the Senate can use this pretext to delay the on the basis that we have not yet reached unanimity on the interpretation of the treaty...

Teyl would say here: "So what's the matter?! Let's reach it! So far, the Convention has only been signed government! And we are asking you about something with which you seem to agree ... "

Alas, he didn't say anything...

No, I won't accuse Theil of colluding. I am inclined to believe that he was simply not very committed to the idea of the greatness of Russia, and he was distinguished more by thoroughness than by speed of reaction and sharpness of thought ...

Therefore, nothing prevented Adams from ranting further, which he did, playing to his heart's content. for his feigned restraint at the beginning of the conversation:

- Our Convention will make the most favorable impression on the public opinion of this country and set it in favor of Russia ... But if difficulties arose at the very moment of the exchange of instruments of ratification, this would lead to a different result ... I consider our countries as natural friends. Both the president and I are filled with the most sincere desire to do everything in our power to respect his imperial majesty, and we will meet with unfailing readiness and respect the proposals that he will make to us ...

Dear reader! Well, isn't that arrogance? You have just been made very specific offers, and you declare that you are ready to accept everything that is offered to you, only to politely send the offer to hell!

N-yes!

And here Adams, carried away, gave a little blunder and blurted out something that later allowed Theil to

pry a little - although he did not use Adams' blunder to the end ...

The fact is that the conversation between the official representatives of the two countries is not chatter in a cozy restaurant... It is fixed mutually and often mutually agreed upon in the form of a resume...

So Adams said to Theil:

- Personally, I am of the opinion that our compatriots have no intention of extending their trading enterprises either to Siberia or to the Aleutian Islands; I don't think either that they are going to go to 59° or even to 57° north latitude... Not that kind of activity at all. But an official demarche on this score could give rise to such an idea ...

As you can see, Adams graciously left Siberia completely Russian... But at the same time, he let it slip that, in his opinion, the existing text of the Convention on April 5 gives the Americans grounds to claim freedom of hands, not only in the Aleuts or Alaska, but even in Russian Asia!

Yes ... Del-ah-ah! ..

But that's not all ... A few days later, Theil submitted a resume to Adams for approval, where the words Secretary of State were presented in the form in which Theil heard them and in which I quoted them above.

And here Adams began to insist on an amendment ... He wanted the words "*... not to the Aleutian Islands; I also don't think they're going to head 59° N or even 57° N. sh...*" were excluded...

"But, Mr. Adams," Theil objected, "my memory may rather be imperfect, how can I change ... I heard it like that!

"No, no, I couldn't say that," Adams immediately began to deny, "either you misunderstood me, or I expressed myself inaccurately! I am not well versed in matters pertaining to American trade in those parts to speak like that! I could only talk about the Siberian coast...

Theil did not complain about memory, but the "seditious" words had to be removed, about which he remarked: "I am very inclined to suspect that the Secretary of State considered it necessary to explain himself in this way after some reflection."

Thus, the true plans of the United States and their true interpretation of the articles of the Convention became obvious. But these were already the waves after the storm ...

A picky reader may ask the author: "Where does such knowledge of details come from - up to the way Tayla Adams listened? Was the author hiding behind a curtain in the Secretary of State's office?"

Of course, I was not a witness to the conversation, but Theil himself became my informant. For I only allowed myself to expand into a dialogue part of his dispatch to Nesselrode dated January 17 (29), 1825 - the last year of Alexander's Russia ...

Yes, the Foreign Ministry of Nesselrode seemed to have complied with the decision of the protocol of July 21, 1824, but the natural slowness of the messages at that time, combined with the unnatural slowness of the Foreign Ministry, did its job - it was no longer possible to take any practical steps.

On December 29, 1824, the Convention was submitted to the Senate, and on January 11, 1825, the instruments of ratification were already exchanged. Adams frightened Theil at the end of December that opponents in the Senate, they say, would fight the Convention and resist its adoption, but everything went quickly and calmly. Still would! What are they, the Yankees, fools, or what?

It's you and me, my dear reader, very often we make fools of ourselves ...

The only relatively positive "dry residue" from all this, not that sad, not that

Theil-fan-Seroskerken's recommendation to the Russian Foreign Ministry, expressed by him in the same dispatch dated January 17 (29), 1825, and specially highlighted by him in the text of the dispatch, became a vile and outrageous story: "If the Russian court ever has to negotiate again with this *government*, *it is desirable that our cabinet should make it an absolute rule never to ratify any convention concluded with the United States before receiving American ratification letters*".

ALEXANDER by that time was, as I understand it, a ball of nerves. And the fact that he knew how to externally control himself, his internal instability only intensified.

On February 16 (28), 1825, the Anglo-Russian Convention was also concluded. And on February 17 (March 1), 1825, the Main Board of the RAC, still, of course, not knowing about it, submitted report No. 157 "On the newly established fortresses on the Northwest Coast of America" to Kankrin.

The Board informed the state authorities of its order to the Russian colonial authorities "to build fortresses on the Northwest coast of America along the Copper River, from the sea coast into the earth" ...

Thus, the RAC government intended to stake out our rights to the "Stone" (Rocky) Mountains (Rocky Mountains), which the British have already reached from the other side. It asked Kankrin to report this to the Foreign Office, "so that during negotiations with the British Cabinet, attention would be drawn to this subject."

But the Convention with England had already been signed, and the emperor's irritation was manifested in the fact that he immediately ordered Kankrin to hand over the RAC so that she immediately canceled the construction of fortresses, and "moreover, having called on the directors, to give them the strictest reprimand for indecency ... proposals ... *so that they unquestioningly obey the orders and types of government, without leaving borders of the merchant class.*

So, the merchants behaved like statesmen, and the emperor behaved like a weak-willed Ragdoll...

In August 1825, through Nesselrode (and obviously under Nesselrode's dictation), he orders Kankrin to amend the Charter of the RAC, taking into account the requirements of both Conventions and "prove" to the Company that "from now on it must seek and can easily find means *to increasing and lasting well-being in meek appeal its with the natural inhabitants of the countries there, in a system that guides the prudent use of the methods delivered to her by those parts regarding animal and fisheries, and in the distribution of her trade relations with educated peoples, little by little approaching our settlements ...* ".

Yes, the Adams and Cannings didn't make fun of us, so now the Nesselrods have added ...

And at the end of his letter he put down: "I have the honor ..."

Eh!

Nesselrode's attitude to Kankrin was dated August 1 according to old Russian, but August 13 according to European style, and it is unlikely that this dating of Nesselrode's message turned out to be such an accident ...

Secret "apron wearers" simply adore such hidden symbolism, which could be expose to the public...

A letter to Nesselrode dated. August 13, 1825 put an end to the glorious history of the RAC. AND although the RAC had to exist for another half a century, the years that were by no means victorious for it loomed ahead ...

MY STORY about two agreements catastrophic for the future of Russian America in 1824 and 1825 years on this could have ended, without even wondering why this happened.

I have already said enough for the reader to draw the correct conclusion on this matter, and later I will add information for reflection ...

However, I would like to dwell a little on the question of how deep our rights to Russian America were, in a somewhat peculiar formulation of this issue ...

After all, we, my dear reader, literally *buried* these rights in the ground American continent! Not very, true, deep, but still not so shallow ...

And this is how it happened....

The Note of the Russian-American Company of 1822, which I previously cited, was accompanied by a secret "Appendix", which began with the following words: "*After the Russians settled on Kodiak Island and when Shelikhov, who started this colony in Bose, the resting empress Empress Catherine II allowed to make further discoveries in the north -the western coast of America, then our government, represented by the Irkutsk and Kolyvan Governor-General Yakobiy, who was in office, instructed that Shelikhov, in all places visited by his courts, to secretly bury copper boards in conspicuous places in the ground, purposely poured for this in some quantity with the inscription "Earth Russian possession" "... On the northwestern coast of the American mainland there are such secret signs much south of a certain line at 51 ° north latitude, and precisely at 41 ° and 38 ° "*..

In the "Appendix" were given detailed descriptions of the places of laying the twelve boards, of which I will give three in part.

"In 1788, the navigators Izmailov and Bocharov, sailing on the ship "Three Saints", laid board No. 7 in the Chugot Bay. Signs: enter the bay by the Chugot Strait from the midday side, swim 8 and 1/2 versts and turn to the northwestern tip of the first island lying in the middle of the strait; there is a cliff on it ... and here, between two moderately high larch trees ... a board is buried in the ground for 5 inches ...

1804, the main ruler of the colonies, Baranov, on the southeast side in the Chatam Strait ... laid board No. 11. Signs: from the entrance from the sea to the bay, on the right side of a treeless, smooth stony cat, there are two elevated stones (kekurs) and a third next to a second smaller one ; at the second stone, which is closer to the forest, a board is buried ...

1809 of Commerce Councilor Kuskov in the Bay of Small Bodego (California. - S.K.) laid board No. ° 21 longitude from Grenwich), a board is buried an arshin deep ... "

These were physical evidence of Russian rights in America. But about one more peculiar confirming our rights, I want to say ...

I hope that the author and the reader have established enough trusting relationships so that my dear reader in some ways took my word for it.

So, as I was convinced, almost all the more or less prominent Russian sailors of the first quarter of the 19th century, as well as those Russian sailors who played significant roles by the middle of the same century, in one way or another turned out to be connected with Russian America and with the activities of the RAC - then whether serving on its ships or commanding them, or having gone through the school of Russian long-distance voyages and round-the-world trips with a call to Russian America.

Krusenstern and Lisiansky, Kotzebue, Lazarev, Bellingshausen, Golovnin, Wrangel are classic names.

But here is our list, far from classic and far from complete, only the admiral's "American" list: Alexander Pavlovich Avinov, Evgeny Andreevich Berens, Moritz Borisovich Berkh, Roman Platonovich Boil, Mikhail Nikolaevich Vasiliev, Vasily Stepanovich Zavoyko, Ivan Nikolaevich Ignatiev, Ivan Mikhailovich Kislakovskiy, Timofey Vasilievich Kordyukov, Ivan Antonovich Kupriyanov, Mikhail Andreyanovich Lavrov, Fedor Petrovich Litke, Ivan Fedorovich Likhachev, Fedor Fedorovich Matyushkin (a friend of Pushkin's Lyceum), Prokofy Platonovich Mitkov, Grigory Ivanovich Nikiforov, Makar Ivanovich Ratmanov, Petr Ivanovich Rikord, Nikolai Petrovich Rimsky-Korsakov, Vladimir Pavlovich Romanov, Mikhail Nikolaevich Stanyukovich (father of the writer), Stepan Petrovich Khrushchev, Gleb Semenovich Shishmarev ...

The list is, of course, long, and I do not expect the reader to remember it. Perhaps someone will wince at such an abundance of names, but somehow and somewhere it is necessary to at least *pay* tribute to the memory and respect *for all of them at once* - a dashing cohort of Russian naval officers who, with their labors, made Russia in the first third of the 19th century a first-class naval power!

After all, these are all not ordinary naval commanders, but people who somehow left a mark on the history of the fleet. But there were also dozens of "ordinary" admirals, captains of the 1st and 2nd ranks, captain-lieutenants and lieutenants ... And - midshipmen ...

I note that I did not begin to mention here those Russian "American" sailors, whom I spoke about in different places especially - the same Sarychev and others, but I cannot but mention the unforgettable Pavel Stepanovich Nakhimov, who went to Russian America in the twenties as a lieutenant on a frigate "Cruiser" under the command of Lazarev.

And, like Nakhimov, almost all of this huge list started in a glorious (before the "conventional" time) the era of Alexander's Russian America!

I can't say for sure, but I can assume that in the first quarter of the century before last, the percentage of the command staff of the Russian fleet with a "round-the-world qualification" was the maximum in the entire history of the Russian and Soviet fleet!

Yes, it probably did!

This is my personal conviction, but here is what Vasily Mikhailovich Pasetzky, the author of a scientific biography of Krusenstern, writes: "Not a single state in the world of that era could organize such a brilliant chain of almost continuous round-the-world or semi-circumnavigation voyages ..."

And it was not a royal whim! After all, a round-the-world trip - if it's not the fun of a nouveau riche gorged on "bucks" - is a serious and expensive business. The state undertakes such measures only in case of their obvious state and social necessity.

And in those days, such a need was urgent and visible - a constant connection was needed sea with the only Russian continental lands outside the Eurasian continent!

After all, we had our **own** America!

RAC ships, with state support and under the command of naval officers of active service, and ships of the Navy, making round-the-world voyages with a call to Russian America, transported goods to RAC settlements, guarded Russian fisheries in the Pacific Ocean and, naturally, made geographical discoveries, and also necessarily conducted scientific observation and research programs.

Here it is, another confirmation of the Russian right to Russian America - our round-the-world

trips! They nourished her, but she, by the very fact of her existence, nourished an interest in them.

HOWEVER, towards the end of the reign of Alexander, Russia was increasingly daring away from its Pacific and American possessions, but more and more actively involved *in* the diverse "Eastern question" ...

In this intricate, for the most part, not very much concerning Russia "question", Alexander's brother, Nicholas the First, will soon get stuck. And the crafty anti-Russian forces will bring him through this "eastern swamp" to the Crimean War.

And even later, the baton of "eastern stupidity" will be taken from Father Nikolai by his son and nephew Alexander the First - Alexander is already the Second ...

But so far we have not figured out everything in the era of Alexander the First. And to with her and with her To put an end to the "American" aspect, we need to talk a little more about Alexander himself ...

YES AND, PLEASE, not a little...

Chapter 6

Russian America and "Elder Kuzmich"

A STORY about the king - even if the king is insignificant, it will inevitably be a story about life subject to power to him, about his time ... And Alexander was no less complex in nature than his era ...

Further in this chapter, I will consider everything through the personality of the king, and here, my dear reader, once again I will have to embark on the path not only of reconstructing events, but also of assumptions.

Perhaps, to some they will seem paradoxical, and even adventurous.

Maybe...

But this does not bother the author - intuition tells him that his version at least has the right to be featured on these pages.

And I will say right away that, in my opinion, the negative turn in the history of Russian America has become one of the main internal reasons for the final breakdown of the tsar and his departure from the throne at the end of 1825.

Exactly departure, and not death ... Perhaps the reader is already familiar with the story of "Elder Kuzmich" ... That is, the version that the tsar did not die in Taganrog, but staged his death, went into non-existence only political and accidentally came to the attention of the authorities only in 1836 year in the city of Krasnoufimsk, Perm province - already as "the elder Fyodor Kuzmich, who does not remember the relationship."

Beaten by batogs like a vagabond, Kuzmich was exiled to the Tomsk province to settle in the village of Zertsaly. In Siberia, he - in conditions, however, free and calm - spent the last almost thirty years of his life, dying in 1864 (that is, if it was a former tsar - eighty-seven years old).

Later, I will devote enough space to the story of the death (?) of the emperor and Kuzmich ... But not because I get carried away and digress from the main topic. After all, Alexander, Kuzmich and Alaska are interconnected. And the fate of the "old man Kuzmich" for me is only a small part of the fate of Emperor Alexander, just like the fate of Alexander itself for me is only a part of the fate of Russian America ...

But the fate of Russian America...

Now that I have learned a lot about it and changed my mind a lot, it seems to me that it largely determined the entire geopolitical picture in the Russian Far East, and indeed in the Pacific Ocean, by the end of the 19th century and in the 20th century ... I do not exclude that the story is not over even in the new, just

beginning century.

Moreover, the fate of Russian America powerfully (although this is not realized or hushed up to this day) influenced both the future of all of Russia and the picture of the world as a whole. So this problem is not only historical. It is capable, as I said, of influencing the future of the planet.

And "Kuzmich" is that drop in which you can consider both the Russian microcosm and the Russian macrocosm ... And consider it in such a way that a straight line stretches from the "American" features of the era of Alexander the First to the political sabotage of Witte, to Port Arthur, to the Russian-Japanese war...

And further...

That is why I consider it necessary to move now far (and perhaps, as the reader will see, not very much) from the topic of Russian America and try to understand the psychological makeup of the "winner Napoleon"...

I have ALREADY noted more than once that Emperor Alexander the First was, of course, a patriot, moreover, a patriot educated and brought up in a rather liberal spirit. Suffice it to recall that his tutor (and his brother Constantine) was the later famous Swiss republican Friedrich-Caesar Laharpe, with whom Alexander maintained relations even after his departure to his homeland.

Therefore, the emperor was able to think broadly (alas, this can rarely be said about him in the sphere of action). Here is a phrase from his instructions dated September 11 (23), 1804 to his trusted representative Nikolai Novosiltsev, who is leaving for London: *"Not wanting to force humanity to go in the opposite direction to progress (which, however, in view of the successes achieved by enlightenment, to a failure that would turn against the instigators themselves), I would like both our governments (Russia and England. - S.K.) to agree among themselves not only not to restore in the countries to be liberated from the yoke of Bonaparte, the former order of things with all its abuses, with which the minds that have known independence will no longer be able to reconcile themselves, but, on the contrary, would try to provide them with freedom on its true foundations ... "*

It is interesting that this is written by the future "pillar" of the Holy Union of Monarchs.

Alexander more than once thought about the release of the peasants and for the last time instructed Arakcheev to develop an appropriate project - in 1818. But then the tsar no longer had a life "fuse", the project remained a project. However, this intention itself also says something. As, however, and the rejection of it.

True, in February 1802 there was a Decree "on free cultivators", there was in 1816 the abolition of serfdom in the Baltic provinces ... But it was in the penultimate "Alexander" 1824 year and the removal of restrictions on the trade of peasants.

Alexander was a patriot, which was even reflected in such a conversation of his envoy, adjutant general Alexander Dmitrievich Balashov with Napoleon on June 13 (26), 1812.

What road leads to Moscow? Napoleon asked Balashov arrogantly.

"Your Majesty," he replied, "this question makes me a little difficult ...

- That is?

- Well, the Russians, like the French, say that all roads lead to Rome ...

— Yes, but I'm asking you about Moscow, general!

- So I'm talking about the same thing ... They choose the road to Moscow at will ... Here King Charles the Twelfth walked through Poltava...

Such a purely Russian answer could only be given by a courtier of such a monarch, who could only be proud of such an answer of his, moreover, from precisely patriotic motives. But, as I said, Alexander was an inconsistent patriot. Some of it is active, some of it is not.

He loved the Russians, but noted the Ostsees or foreigners in the Russian service, honoring them with both ranks and orders and - even more regrettable - trust and important assignments.

He did not differ in gratitude either ... In this respect, Pushkin's thought expressed in a letter to Kondraty Ryleev in June 1825 is characteristic. Pushkin wrote that, they say, he, Pushkin, has been praised in magazines in recent years "rightly and in vain," and then continued: *"L about our friend (he meant the tsar. - S.K.) not a gugu, as if he was not in the world. Why is this? Surely, not from ... the radicalism of such and such a journalist, no, but everyone knows that even if he is dishonest, no one will thank him and will not give him even 5 rubles - it's better to be a noble person for nothing "...*

Yes, the tsar did not know how to appreciate people, even those who were ready to "begrudgingly", and even more so - those who

was noble not for the reason that he was not bought, but because he had a noble and active Russian soul.

And at the same time, his entourage and his administration included quite a few really worthy people. Otherwise, things would have gone from bad to worse.

The main thing is that Alexander did not show in anything not only fortitude, but perseverance ... The reason there were, obviously, both natural character traits and some circumstances of his personal biography.

His grandmother Ekaterina provided his educators not only with a number of instructions, "instructions" on various aspects of raising the grandchildren of Alexander and Konstantin, but also with "elected Russian proverbs" in the amount of 126 pieces ... The list began with the proverb "If the kingdom is divided, it will soon be ruined", and ended like this: *"Eat, don't crumble, but don't ask for more"* ...

A child's mind is tenacious, but Alexander and his memory in general were more than fine. So, there were in Catherine's list and two such proverbs, over which, in his mature years, the emperor had a reason think over and over...

These are *"Whatever you seek, you will find that one for yourself in the future"* and *"What you play, so you will hurt yourself."*

Otherwise, you can say this: "Do not do to another what you do not want them to do to you" ...

And Alexander did it to his father.

Alexander became a parricide...

And he knew it.

And he knew that everyone knew this - up to the Emperor Napoleon, who once transparently and insultingly hinted at this to him - both in a formidable article in his semi-official "Monitor", and in a response note to the protest of Russia after the execution of the Duke of Enghien in the moat of the castle of Vincennes.

Napoleon then replied that he would not have protested if Alexander had acted in a similar way with murderers of his father, who fell victim to the intrigues of England ...

Then Alexander was young, but then maturity came ... More and more often that Pushkin came "Cold life", which over the years, not everyone is able to endure without mental loss ...

And most likely no one at all.

Thoughts about his father could not help but languish harder and more often ...

And this alone almost automatically provided the son, who agreed to the murder of his father, from some point on, the strongest mental breakdown ... Moreover, over time, he could not help but understand that his father was not such a petty tyrant. No wonder Alexander not only did not alienate his father's favorite Arakcheev, but relied on him to the end.

The king had many other reasons for accumulating fatigue and growing devastation ... And with them, inconsistency and half-heartedness of decisions intensified ...

So, in 1809, he became interested in Speransky's project on a gradual transition to a constitutional monarchy, and in March 1812 Speransky dismissed and exiled ... And then again elevated.

The point here is not Mikhail Mikhailovich Speransky himself - a figure that is personally dark for me to this day. The fact is that in relation to Speransky, Alexander's inconsistency, which accompanied him all his life, manifested itself, perhaps, better than in anything else ...

And Napoleon?

This almost rootless minion (as it might seem to a superficial look) of fate could not help but irritate Alexander by the very fact of his successes. He obscured the figure of the Russian emperor, who claimed his own originality on a European and world scale.

And the tsar, for no particular reason, started a war with Napoleon in 1806, was beaten by him, then concluded an offensive and defensive alliance with him in Tilsit in 1807, joined the continental blockade of England.

England was hostile to Russia, Napoleon was hostile to the St. Petersburg and Moscow aristocracy - both as aristocracy and as Russian "landlords", that is, large landowners.

And Alexander hesitated again...

It is considered commonplace that the continental blockade undermined the Russian economy. And the figures in historical monographs seem to confirm this. And it seems that the same Speransky, precisely by the disastrous blockade for Russian trade, explained to the tsar the inevitability of war with France (although, according to other sources, he, on the contrary, was a supporter of the Russian-French alliance).

But here is ours, stuffed during it by Academician E.V. Tarle, historian Mikhail Nikolaevich Pokrovsky reports that the flourishing of Russian paper-spinning production was created precisely by the Peace of Tilsit, a year after the signing of which the first Russian paper-spinning appeared. And in 1812, the year of the war with Napoleon "predicted" by Speransky, there were eleven of them in Moscow alone. And with the disappearance of English merchants and the absence of French merchants, Russian merchants became kings of the St. Petersburg Stock Exchange.

From the same Pokrovsky, I came across "Patriotic discourse of a Moscow merchant on Russian foreign trade", dating back to the beginning of the 20s of the XIX century ... And this is what the "Moscow merchant" wrote, regretting the times of the continental blockade: "Not only many rich merchants and nobles, but from a different state, people began to set up factories and factories of various kinds, sparing no capital and even going into debt ... Everything revived within the state, and a special activity was established everywhere.

Voiced coin appeared everywhere in circulation, farmers even needed banknotes; in the Moscow ranks, heaps of gold were visible; cloth factories were so elevated that the Chinese did not refuse to take Russian cloth, and Kyakhta merchants could do without issuing foreign cloth. Calico and nanka began to match the finishes of English ones; sugar, porcelain, bronze, paper, sealing wax are brought almost to perfection. Hats have long been demanded even abroad. With such an improvement in Russian factories in England, they almost reached indignation at the fact that the working people had nothing to do.

You read and you can't believe your eyes! Well, I knew, well, I understood that the continental blockade gave a powerful impetus to the industrial development of the European continent, but to find out that it had the same effect had in Russia!

Oh, gentlemen historians!

The situation was ambiguous, but even more ambiguous was the nature of the one from whom in this a lot depended on the situation, if not almost everything ...

HERE IS SOMETHING MORE about the situation in Russia *before* 1812 ... And also - to the question of the need for external debts, about the alleged difficulties in the economy and finances of the Russian Empire, to schedule which historians are also much ...

In April 1810, the court bankers, brothers Peter and Andrei

Ivanovich Severins wrote a note *"Some considerations on the need to ban a number of goods imported into Russia as a means of improving its trade balance, and consequently, the state of its finances."*

What is interesting ... "Historians from the Central Committee of the CPSU" published it - in 1967 in the multi-volume edition "Foreign Policy of Russia in the 19th and early 20th centuries", but without any indication of where the note was submitted and what exactly it was fate...

I don't know who the brothers addressed to, and I ... I can only report that the Severin brothers were part of the office of court bankers in the last period of its existence, that the older brother Peter died in 1828, almost sixty years old, and brother Andrei was one of the directors in the twenties CANCER.

But it can be assumed that the Severins' note was addressed to the Minister of Commerce Romyantsev and Admiral Mordvinov (both of these names are known to the reader, and I will talk about Count Mordvinov separately later), but - for subsequent transmission to Alexander, because the note was written in the standard business language of Russian court, that is, French.

The Severins in it gave a complex picture of Russian finances and wrote: *"Under the current conditions, one can no longer limit oneself to half-measures ... decisive measures must be taken so that the effect is as fast as the undeniably offered medicine ..."*

The recommendation was indeed clear: reduce imports and encourage exports. And the considerations of two Russian (without substitution) financiers were so simple, true and **relevant** to this day that I will quote them without distortion: *"Despite the fact that Russia finds everything necessary for life in the happy abilities of its inhabitants, it has in more than sufficient quantities of raw materials and the necessary skills for the development and improvement of industry and can, under the auspices of a wise administration (emphasis mine. - S.K.) turn into a state completely independent of other nations, nevertheless, now it is not yet able to completely do without without them. There are a number of commodities, although not essentials, whose importation is useful and necessary for many reasons. Therefore, it is impossible to prohibit the import of all goods of foreign origin, they should be classified and those goods should be singled out, the absence of which will least affect the prosperity of the state and the well-being of its inhabitants. Goods imported into Russia can be divided into two categories: 1) items necessary for consumption, agriculture, industry, art and science; 2) luxury and comfort items.*

The breadth of the horizons of the Severin brothers is already visible from the fact that, as we see, they did not classify objects that develop art as luxury goods, but summarized: *"As important as the ban does not affect the first group of goods, it is just as necessary that it be directed against second..."*

The note reported that even without taking into account the inevitable smuggling, the volume of imports of some, by no means essential goods, was in 1809 approximately as follows:

Dear reader! On the rejection of this alone, Russia could not only completely straighten its trade balance, but generally bring finances into an unshakably stable state! At the same time, domestic production would receive a powerful impetus, comparable, perhaps, only with the Petrine era!

And all this at the cost of giving up the propertyed bunch for, say, two or three years of just something from refined sugar, coffee and fabrics embroidered with gold and silver (to hell with them, let porcelain, rum and "Romanes" remain!).

A little later, on November 21, 1810, the following lines were written: *"The spread of luxury has given rise to a thousand needs, alien to human nature, which are based only on restless and*

unbridled imagination. Hence this pursuit of novelties, of expensive objects brought from afar. Every year, Russia pays foreigners huge sums for items that are completely useless, serving only luxury. You can be horrified when you find out that only in 1808 the manufactories of only one city sent 34 million francs worth of silk to Russia.

The good of the state, which is the supreme law for the monarch, urgently requires that There were limits to all of this."

And this could be read not in the "subversive" proclamation, not in the handwritten "list" forbidden by censorship, going from hand to hand, but in the collective note of the committee of St. Petersburg merchants to the State Council, signed by the authorized A.S. Rall, Stieglitz, Pichler, P.I. Blessig, J. Molvo, Friedrich-Wilhelm Amburger, Schöl, P. Severin, Johann Carstens!

Even the carriers of not very Russian names could not stand the idiocy of luxurious aristocrats ("new Russians" did not yet exist).

The proposed measures were all the more reasonable and - for all their simplicity - diplomatically subtle, because, by strengthening themselves with them, Russia would also weaken both France and England. Moreover, without giving either one or the other reasons for justified dissatisfaction.

In fact!

All sorts of coffee and refined products are a "colonial" product, and the rejection of it, on the one hand, created problems for England, and on the other, Napoleon could not but rejoice with his regime of continental blockade.

And silk is a French commodity... By refusing it, Russia created difficulties for France, but Napoleon could not have protested about this if Russia had simultaneously banned the import of the colonial goods of his main enemy, England.

I will say, in parenthesis, that there were other interesting ideas regarding the amendment of Russian affairs by several million rubles a year through smart policies in a completely different, specific region. Not later than November 23, 1810, Colonel Grigory Nikanorovich Strukov, who was in charge of military construction along the Ileik River and in the Kirghiz steppe, sent a note from Orenburg to the Minister of Finance Guryev, entitled "Description of the circumstances and condition with considerations for Russia's trade in the exchange of goods with the peoples of the Kirghiz-Kaisak hordes *and with the cities of Asia Minor, Bukharin, Khiva, Tashkent, Kokaniya, Kashkar and other neighboring peoples there* "...

The title is heavy, but the thoughts there were solid, for Russia it is unambiguous and weighty profitable ... And, alas, rejected ...

Let's return, however, to the Russian capital ...

With a proposal to ban the import of foreign products into the country, Nikolai Semenovich Mordvinov, then chairman of the State Economy Department of the State Council, addressed Alexander. He suggested using the absence of English competition for the development of domestic industry and wrote: *"The issuance of work incentives will encourage private people to establish within their own borders the development of all those things that have hitherto been*

borrowed from foreign lands.

What smart and **loyal** Russian people offered the tsar programmed the future greatness of Russia and, in fact, its legitimate primacy in Europe, and in the world as well ... layer ... And also, by the way, - to create a base for a fairly fast

liberation of the peasantry.

Thus, Russia also avoided a devastating war with Napoleon ...

HOWEVER, Alexander could not maintain one line here either - neither in domestic politics, nor in external. During the last

At the meeting of the two emperors in Erfurt, Napoleon intended to intermarry with him, to marry his younger sister Anna Pavlovna. This would be the verdict of Austria, hostile to Russia. This would be a verdict not only for England, but also for the rapid strengthening of the United States.

Alas, in Erfurt, Talleyrand betrayed Napoleon and turned the Russian emperor against him. Alexander almost rudely refused Napoleon the hand of his sister and led the matter to a break. Then he spoke to the Emperor of the French for the last time, and the conversation in private was long, obviously fateful. But they and before that, more than once they talked about things that were far from idle, remained alone for hours ...

He broke with Napoleon, but later he could well have thought - was it worth it? Immediately after the Tilsit meeting, he told Savary: "I did not feel such prejudice towards anyone as towards him, but after a conversation that lasted three quarters of an hour, it dissipated like a dream."

Whatever one may say, Napoleon was life - not like all these pittas, cannings, chateaubriands, metternichs, nesselrode...

A1812?

The beginning of the war, the withdrawal of the army, fluctuations in the appointment of Kutuzov, Borodino, the growing fame of Kutuzov and the hidden condemnation of Alexander even by his beloved sister Ekaterina Pavlovna for leaving the army (in which the tsar was, in fact, right) - these were all also considerable stones, more and more weighed down the soul ...

And again, inconsistency - the Russians defeated Napoleon, and the general ranks are increasingly received from the tsar the Germans-Ostsee.

Alexander was proud, but secretive ... Someone called him a sphinx ... And Pushkin, already in 1829, wrote about him:

No wonder this face is bilingual;
Such was this lord: He was
accustomed to counterfeiting, In the
face and in life, the harlequin ...

But such "counterfeelings" leave a very bad mark on themselves ...

And were the opposition always just the result of habit?

HERE is a VERY little-known to Russian people, but very interesting story with our poet Gavrila Romanovich Derzhavin, whom Alexander appointed in 1802 as Minister of Justice (the first, by the way, in the history of Russian statehood!) and Prosecutor General (!!)

Even under Pavel, Derzhavin was sent "to review the situation of the Belarusian peasants" and came to the conclusion that, in addition to the "willfulness of the landowners", one of the main causes of the disastrous state was the Jewish taverns and distillers, who soldered the villagers and robbed them to the skin. Derzhavin proposed to legally limit such activities of the Jews, "turning them to agriculture and a craft useful to society" ...

It ended up that on November 9, 1802, by order of the tsar, a special five-member Jewish committee was created from Derzhavin, the Minister of the Interior Count Viktor Kochubey, Count Valerian Zubov, Prince Adam Czartoryzhsky (Czartorysky), Senator Count Severin Potocki and deputies from

provincial kahals.

Chartorizhsky, Zubov, Pototsky had estates in the Western Territory and received income from local Jews for rent. Kochubey did the same in Ukraine.

Nevertheless, the panic in the kahals rose serious ... On December 13 (13th!) 1802, the Minsk kagal adopted a resolution: "*Due to the spread of unfavorable rumors from the capital of St. Petersburg ... it is necessary to go to the capital St. Petersburg and ask the Sovereign (may his glory be exalted!) so that they do not make any innovations ...* "

Since "large expenses" were expected and "many expenses" were foreseen, the kahal introduced a percentage fee, while it was decided: "*Whoever does not pay the aforementioned fee will be announced as a person who has separated from the community. In addition, the power is given to such a person to subject him to various fines and persecute him as much as the strength of the Israeli people is enough.*

A million rubles was collected. This is only from penny, in fact, deductions. What were then **income**? Not cheap, it turns out, these distillers of Russia managed!

One of them, a businessman known to Derzhavin, Notka, came to the poet-minister at home, and there conversation like this:

- What did you come with, Notka?

"Here, I brought you a gift, you high-spittle!

- Present?

Yeah, a hundred thousand...

A million were assembled, there were five members of the committee, and the "share" of each was, thus, two hundred thousand. However, Notka, it seems, was not averse to warming his hands even on a bribe to dignitaries.

Derzhavin raised his eyebrows.

- Hundred-oh-oh you-s-syach?

- Ezeli is not enough, so here are two hundred ...

- And what is it for?

- And you in the committee will agree that the good ones will say, and the hospital does not need anything ...

Dear reader! Derzhavin took the money. And he immediately took them to the king, counting on an immediate, violent and vigorous reaction.

Alexander also took the money. And that's all - neither the sovereign's word, nor the sovereign's deeds ...

And at the very first meeting of the Jewish Committee, everyone except Derzhavin spoke in favor of leaving the Jews the right to sell wine. Seeing this, Gavril Romanovich, although he was a "resident of Parnassus", resorted to such energetic "profanity" that the question hung.

Not even a year had passed, and on October 8, 1803, the poet was dismissed from his ministerial post. The day before he was the king and asked directly:

"Sire, what have I done for you?"

"You serve very zealously," the questioner replied gloomily.

Derzhavin in the Ministry of Justice and in the Jewish Committee was replaced by His Serene Highness Prince Pyotr Vasilyich Lopukhin (he was considered, by the way, an opponent of Speransky), and with the appointment of this illustrious

"burdock" things went smoothly - they quickly developed and adopted such a "Regulation for the Jews", which seemed to forbid something to them, but in fact everything was still allowed.

By decree of the emperor of December 9 (thank the Russian God - not the 13th!) December 1804, the "Regulations" were approved.

And the following was brought to general knowledge: "It is better and more reliable to lead the Jews to perfection, opening only paths for their own benefit, supervising from afar (?! - S.K.) *their* movements and removing everything that can seduce them from this path, not using, however, any (?!?! - S.K.) power, not appointing any special institutions, not acting instead of them, but revealing only their own activities. As little prohibition as possible, as much freedom as possible (!!! - S.K.)."

The Jewish historian Fin wrote later: "In his decree ... Emperor Alexander I opened before the light his justice towards us Jews, and his great mercy flowed like a river on us.

Still would! After all, in response, a stinking fuselage flowed into the open Russian mouths like a spilled river, flowing into the korchmar, distillery and dignitary pockets is already pure gold!

The wording of the "Regulations ..." is simply amazing! It should be so cool, democratic and it is political to explain everything about the Jews in Russia - what Russians need to do for their benefit!

Who would write something like that for Russians in Russia?

Well, for the Russians, I don't know if anyone could have been such a smartass... But the author of the "Regulations for the Jews" (here it's definitely "for...") was thirty-year-old Mikhail Speransky, who at that time lived in the house of Peretz, a St. Petersburg millionaire businessman and who worked under the authority of that Count Kochubey, who (remember the words of Vigel) twisted dark financial tricks with this "Pepper" ...

By the way, Peretz was connected, of course, with the banker Nikolai Stieglitz, and Stieglitz's brother - Bernhard was engaged in wine farming in Kremenchug.

Such are the "business" connections ...

Derzhavin believed that Speransky was simply bought, while historians believe that he did not take it, but simply secured a career for himself. Personally, I think that both the poet and the historians are right... With only one remark: Speransky, being an intelligent person, simply could not refuse to take a bribe (of course, not in the amount of the failed "offering" to Derzhavin)! He couldn't because, again, as an intelligent person, he couldn't help but understand that even if he didn't take anything, no one would believe it (and quite reasonably) anyway. Except

except perhaps the gentlemen of historians - there are no documents confirming the acceptance of the "gift" in the archives.

On the other hand, there are documents in the historical archives about other ancient events ... And they report that on November 21, 1818, Russian representatives submitted a note to the Aachen Congress for discussion by the former secretary of the Prussian king for foreign affairs, Pastor Dom. If the reader is surprised - why did the Russians suddenly take on this work? - then I will answer: but from the fact that the note was received in the name of Alexander the First.

Its essence is the following reform of European civil and political legislation: 1) granting Jews equal rights with Christians; 2) the obligation of governments to prescribe to hierarchs churches to preach the widest possible tolerance for Jews.

Another German - Dr. Schaeffer in those days could not get through to the Russian emperor with his note about Russian Sandwiches-Hawaii. But Pastor Dom made it through! It can be seen that even in 1818 Alexander believed that he had not yet shed all the streams of his goodwill on the chosen people.

However, the rest of the civilized members of the Congress - England, France, Prussia and Austria were

in this regard, they are less loving and wrote in the joint minutes: *"The Conference, without unconditionally sharing all the opinions of the author of the document, pays tribute to the general direction and laudable purpose of his proposals."*

That is what was limited.

I have cited these stories here not only to show the origins of some of Alexander's "counterfeelings", but also to ask myself and the reader: "If the emperor could be put under such pressure by the internal, it would seem, completely dependent high-society riffraff together with riff-raff kahal, then how could he be pressured and, of course, pressured by the external "golden" riffraff for his "American" dreams?

Outwardly, Russia was a great empire, but in reality it was gradually drawn into the network of external loans. Alexander knew this, but apparently not only did not oppose the process, but he himself contributed to it.

However, what could and **was** his inner powerless "counterfeit" to this?

Indeed, in the eyes of Europe, Alexander was surrounded by the halo of the victorious Napoleon and was a pillar Holy Union of Monarchs.

France could not disobey him, Austria, in general, too.

England? Even then, aiming at the entire world colonial sky, she could not allow the luxury of a direct (especially military) confrontation with Russia...

And how and who did Alexander look like in the eyes of America? And how could he put himself and Russia there?

The United States was then a predominantly agricultural country. On their western coast, they then not only did not have strong military positions, but they did not have a fleet or harbors either. Yes, they then did not have, in fact, the western coast itself!

England, I repeat, would not be able to effectively counteract Russia in the Pacific by military means - especially if Russia behaved decisively.

But it was just that neither the state nor its supreme leader showed decisiveness.

Eh, Alexander Palych Romanov, why didn't you have the nature of Alexander Andreevich Baranov?!

MAYBE I'm wrong, but it seems to me that it was the story of the failed "American" Decree that finally broke Alexander, and after that he simply "pulled the strap" for some time, and then he was tired of dragging her.

Although it is possible that the break with which his fate was already fraught with since March 1801, when Palen and Bennigsen let the dark killers into his father's bedroom, and which became obvious to everyone from the beginning of the 20s, occurred already in 1815 - immediately after the apparent triumph, after the Congress of Vienna ...

There he was surrounded by hypocrites, people of small, although formally European caliber. And did he not understand there that henceforth his destiny was to be surrounded by them until the end of his days? Did it not occur to him that it happened because the only person-phenomenon, the only great in its did he "surrender" to the personal qualities of his contemporary politician in Erfurt this gilded, tinsel and selfish bastard?

Alexander still rules and orders, but he is more and more indecisive in his plans and less and less consistent. He is not only not up to some Sandwiches, not only not up to Russian America, but - more and more not up to Russia ...